A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY
February 5, 2009
Volume XLIX Number 15

THE SPECTATOR

RECEIVED
FEB 19 2009
LIBRARY

Plowing Crisis Resolved

by Julia Mulcrone '11
News Writer

On numerous occasions the past winter season, College Hill Road has been unsuitable for car travel, making it difficult or even impossible for staff members, students and visitors to get to the top of the Hill. Problems stem from inadequate snow removal by the Oneida County plow services, which recently became responsible for plowing these roads for the first time in many years.

Although Oneida County owns the roads, they have paid the town of Kirkland to plow the 26.15 miles of roads The village of Clinton is located in Kirkland. Each year, this contract was renewed and a price was negotiated. For this year, it was projected that Kirkland would receive $5,000 per mile,

*see **Plow**, page 3*

RECYCLEMANIA 2009: HAMILTON CURRENTLY BOTTOM OF THE HEAP

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Taste Don't Waste is just one of the unsuccessful initiatives put in place as part of the Recyclemania 2009 campaign. The effort is off to a slow start, having reduced waste on the Hill a measly 2.04 percent from the normal level. Hamilton is currently ranked 157th out of 157 colleges competing in the general category. Four years ago, Hamilton placed 15th in the general competition. ***See page 16 for full New York State rankings.***

Buff and Blue Café Closes

by Haley Reimer-Peltz '12
News Writer

On Friday, Jan. 30, the McKenna Buff and Blue Café locked up for the last time due to financial reasons. The café also known as the "juice bar" will be removed, and the space will be kept as a lounge with vending machine options.

The juice bar's original purpose was to provide healthy food, beverages and snacks for students and employees who use the fitness center. "It was also designed to provide a casual lounge area where students and employees could gather before or after visiting the fitness center," commented Irene Cornish, Director of Auxiliary Services.

The Blood Fitness Center opened in October 2006, and the juice bar opened shortly after

*see **Café**, page 3*

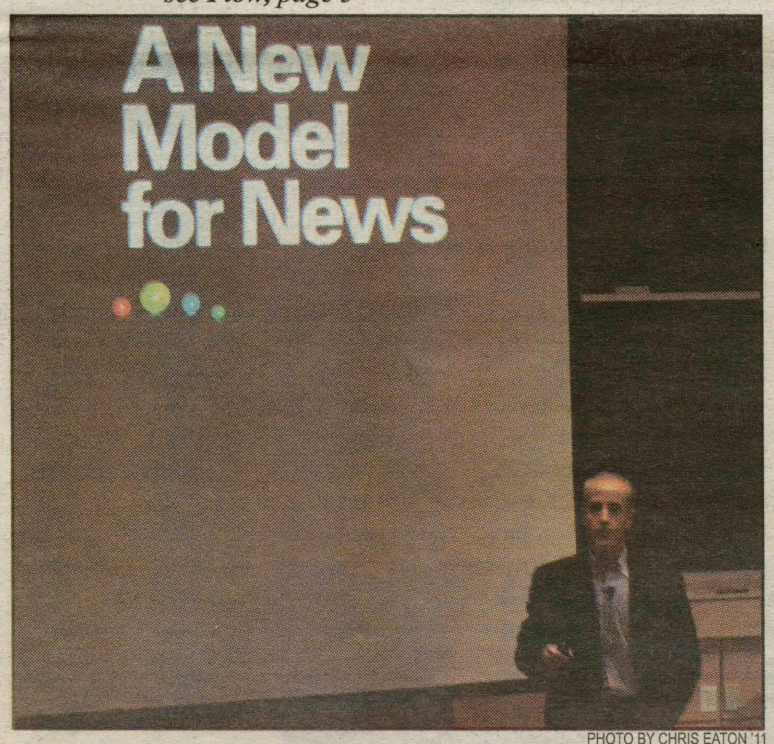


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Jim Kennedy's lecture was "kind of like 'An Inconvenient Truth' about the media," according to the speaker.

AP VP Gives Lecture

by Michelle Franco '11
News Writer

Not many people will read this article. Or, at least, that was the message delivered by Jim Kennedy, vice president and director of strategic planning at the Associated Press, (AP), in a lecture about "The New Model for News" at Hamilton College on Tuesday, Feb 3.

"This [lecture] is kind of like 'An Inconvenient Truth' about the media," Kennedy said. Since the AP was founded in 1846, the ways in which media has been delivered has changed and traditional newspapers are shrinking in popularity.

Kennedy outlined the

*see **Lecture**, page 3*

Survey Shows Off-Campus Hill Card Use a Possibility

by Kerry Q. Coughlin '11
News Writer

As the Hamilton population grows more and more to accustomed to the new Hill Card, additional uses for the card are being explored. One of these would be the ability to use the Hill Card for payment at businesses in Clinton and New Hartford frequented by Hamilton students, a possibility that has been long spoken about by the administration and students alike.

Vice President of Information Technology Services Dave Smallen and the Student Assembly's Technology Committee have been working together to determine potential businesses and students' interest. Last week, Keith Willner '11 of Student Assembly's Technology Committee compiled a list and sent out a survey to get an idea of which businesses students would like access to with their Hill Cards. 843 students responded to the survey, which offered 26 options as well as an "Other" slot.

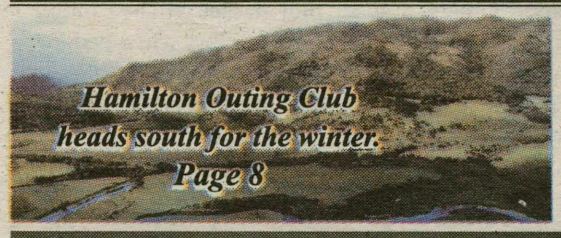
The two most selected businesses in the survey were Hannaford Supermarket, with 644 votes, and Target, with 547 votes. Other popular options included Dunkin' Donuts, the Cider Mill, Pizza Place, CVS, and the Rio Grande Tex Mex Grill. There were 101 "Other" responses, including Wal-Mart, McHarris Gifts, Panera, Mitsuba, Mojoz, the Village Tavern, and Adult World.

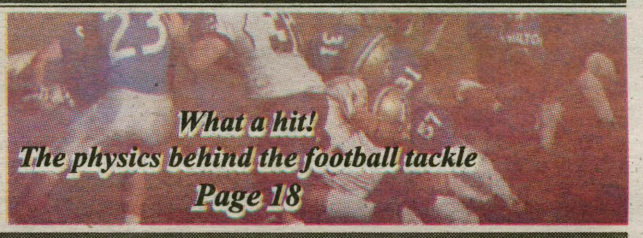
In order for the Hill Card to work at these businesses, they would need to install a card reader at each location. This will be a determinant in businesses' acceptance of Hill Card usage, since they will be responsible for covering the costs of the card readers. "Only those

*see **Hill Card**, page 2*

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Businesses will be approached at the Chamber of Commerce meeting to discuss installing Hill Card readers.





Faculty Moves to Abandon 100-point Grading

Motion would conform Class of 2013 to a 4.0 scale; fate of "A+" and "FF" grades not yet decided

by Daniel Steinman '12
News Writer

If you aspire to achieve the impressive feat of obtaining the grade "FF" in a class, this semester might be your last opportunity. On Tuesday, Feb. 3, the faculty voted to lo longer recognize the mark. An "FF" signifies "serious failure" and has a numerical equivalent of 40.

Assuming the motion is put into effect, F, which has the numerical equivalent of 55, will become the lowest class score achievable, beginning in fall of 2009.

Besides a vote on the future of GPA calculation, faculty members voted on a motion to reuse last semester's electronic teacher evaluation format (with specified changes) at the end of this semester, and discussed reductions in the academic budget for the coming year.

The abandonment of the FF grade is part of a larger transition to a new conversion system by which numerical values would be assigned to letter scores. The class of 2013 should be the first to undergo the new system.

Chairman of the Committee on Academic Policy and English professor Nathaniel Strout presented the motion. He explained our current "A+: 4.0 conversion" system, which differs from many comparable NESCAC colleges, may put graduates at a disadvantage when applying to some graduate schools since different schools evaluate GPA differently.

Strout emphasized that academic assessments are qualitative, not numerical. He said that, except for the elimination of the FF grade, the new system "won't change how professors assign grades at all." The Honor Court still needs to approve the change, but Strout expressed confidence that it supports the measure. Dropping the FF grade would mean that students who have received an "XF" in a course due to an Honor Code violation, will be able to petition at the end of the semester to have the grade replaced with an F rather than an FF, as they do now.

Much of the discussion among the faculty was devoted to the use of electronic teacher evaluations. The format used online for evaluations last semester was designed and approved only for team-based courses.

It differs in several ways from the approved professor evaluations used in the trial-run online evaluations for selected teachers last spring. Associate History Professor Shoshana Keller, a member of the Committee on Appointments, presented a motion to continue to use last semester's online format for this semester's evaluations, since Information Technology Services is not expected to finish constructing the new format until the fall.

The faculty made two amendments to the motion before passing it by a margin of only four votes. As a result, the online evaluation format will no longer include a photo of the professor unless he or she requests its inclusion. The instructional preamble from the online form will be replaced with the one used in the paper format from 2002. Specifically, the preamble will not inform students that his or her anonymity may be forfeited if that student's comments are judged inappropriate. The students, however, may still be informed by their professors.

During the latter half of the meeting, Acting Dean of Faculty Pat Reynolds gave an overview of how Hamilton's academic spending will be cut next year. He projected a 4 to 5 percent trim overall. There will be less funding for the operating budgets of all departments as well as for academic support programs such as those run in the Writing Center and Q-Lit Center, Reynolds said. He specified that spending cuts would be made to the "entertainment" and "faculty travel" budgets.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Associate Professor of History Shoshana Keller watches as the minutiae of teacher evaluations are discussed.

Student Assembly

Proposed Budget Cuts

by Ezra Rosenberg '10
News Editor
Student Assembly Representative

At this Monday's meeting, Acting President Joe Urgo, Dean of Students Nancy Thompson, Vice President of Administration and Finance Karen Leach, and Vice President for Information Technology Dave Smallen all attended to discuss both the pending ELS renovation project and ways the College can reduce spending without reducing the quality of College services.

ELS Renovation:

SA debated the appropriateness of going ahead with construction in June as planned. 65 percent ($7 million) of the construction costs have already been obtained through alumni donations. Concerns were raised about sending the wrong message to struggling families and the new incremental operating costs. Others argues that the College could get a more competitive construction bid and interest rate on a loan by building now, a student center would be a strong asset to attract prospective students, and the school should send the right message to prospective donors that we will use their donations as they intended. SA told the administrators present that they support building ELS in June as planned.

Potential Budget Cuts:

SA proposed ways to reduce spending without reducing services. Leach explained cuts that have already been made, including reducing tree mulching and employee traveling. Another example is the removal of the Buff and Blue Cafe. She said "[the] cuts are on the margins," before asking for SA suggestions. SA representatives proposed reducing excessive heat and energy use, cutting back on Physical Plant jobs and services, and eliminating hours when the Blood Fitness Center is scarcely used. Both Urgo and Leach emphasized that financial aid is the College's top priority and is actually being expanded and not cut in next year's budget.

Funding:

$38,223.65 was allocated to 17 campus organizations.

Hill Card Survey Results:

The top five choices in the campus survey about Hill Card usage off campus were Hannaford, Target, Dunkin' Donuts, Pizza Place, and the Cider Mill. College administrators will attend a Chamber of Commerce meeting this month to purpose the results and idea to local businesses. From that point it will be up to each location to buy and operate a Hill Card reader.

Personal Finance Workshop Scheduled:

The Student Interest Committee has arranged for the Elias W. Leavenworth Professor of Economics James Bradfield to give a workshop about real world problems such as home mortgages, investing, and paying back student loans. The workshop will occur in late February.

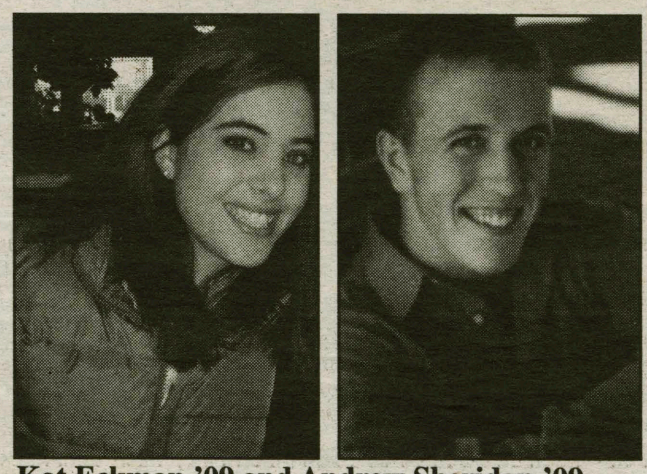
Senior Gift Donations On-Target

by Kara Labs '09
Senior Editor

The end of the fall semester showed great progress for the class of 2009: they met the second deadline of the campaign for The Class of 2009 Community Service Memorial Scholarship. The senior gift committee, composed of approximately 25 members of the senior class, has been very busy since the start of the spring semester collecting gifts to reach the 75 percent deadline by Friday, March 6 and handing out calendars and pint glasses with the class of 2009 insignia.

In order to reach the 75 percent goal by March 6, the class of 2009 needs 84 more gifts. If these gifts come in by the deadline, then the Board of Trustees will give the gift campaign $2,500. The class of '09 has already reached the first two deadlines set by the trustees $10,000 challenge and garnered an extra $3,000 toward the campaign. Out of 488 possible donors in the senior class, 282 have already given (57.8 percent), leaving 206 left in order to reach 100 percent by June 30, when the campaign officially closes. By April 24, however, the trustees also instituted a 90 percent deadline and if the class of 2009 reaches this goal they will give $4,500 to the campaign, the rest of the $10,000 challenge money.

Thus far the class of 2009 has raised $7,812 for the Memorial Scholarship and when added to the challenge money already garnered and parent donations the total raised comes to $11,312. When compared with past campaigns' progress at this point during the campaign, the average gift per senior this year is actually higher than in past years. The average gift a senior has given this year is $27.70 compared to approximately $21 in 2007 and in 2008. When just considering gifts donated by members of the class of 2009, $7,812 have been raised compared to approximately $5,500 raised by the class of 2007 and the class of 2008.



Kat Eckman '09 and Andrew Sheridan '09 have a scholarship dedicated to their memory.

Additionally the class of 2009 started something new in order to try to keep participation rates high after graduation for the Hamilton Annual Fund. Seniors have the opportunity to make a pledge for the upcoming 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 annual funds. So far 76 members of the class of 2009 have already pledged for 2009-2010 and 66 pledged for 2010-2011.

"The enthusiasm of our class for this gift is reflective in our participation numbers. Furthermore, Stu and I can only hope that our classmates' participation this year will be an indicator of their philanthropy to the outside world after they leave the Hill," comments Steph Ryder '09 and co-chair of the senior gift committee with Stuart Lombardi '09.

Once seniors pledge money to the campaign, honoring Kat Eckman '09 and Andrew Sheridan '09, members of the class of 2009 who passed away, they are able to receive a pint glass courtesy the class of 2009 senior gift committee. Already the committee has handed out 144 glasses already from tables in Beinecke. Seniors should be looking out for dates in the coming weeks when pint glasses will be handed out again. Seniors who need information or who would like to give can talk to any senior gift committee member or donate online at http://www.hamilton.edu/makeagift.

Off-Campus Card?

*from **Hill Card**, page 1*

As the Hamilton population grows more and more to accustomed to the new Hill Card, additional uses for the card are being explored. One of these would be the ability to use the Hill Card for payment at businesses in Clinton and New Hartford frequented by Hamilton students, a possibility that has been long spoken about by the administration and students alike.

Vice President of Information Technology Services Dave Smallen and the Student Assembly's Technology Committee have been working together to determine potential businesses and students' interest. Last week, Keith Willner '11 of Student Assembly's Technology Committee compiled a list and sent out a survey to get an idea of which businesses students would like access to with their Hill Cards. 843 students responded to the survey, which offered twenty-six options as well as an "Other" slot.

The two most selected businesses in the survey were Hannaford Supermarket, with 644 votes, and Target, with 547 votes. Other popular options included Dunkin' Donuts, the Cider Mill, Pizza Place, CVS, and the Rio Grande Tex Mex Grill. There were 101 "Other" responses, including Wal-Mart, McHarris Gifts, Panera, Mitsuba, Mojoz, the Village Tavern, and Adult World.

In order for the Hill Card to work at these businesses, they would need to install a card reader at each location. This will be a determinant in businesses' acceptance of Hill Card usage, since they will be responsible for covering the costs of the card readers. "Only those businesses that believe they can make up the cost will be likely to sign on," says Willner.

This is not the only factor that may affect implementation of the Hill Card. Unfortunately, for places that deliver, such as the Pizza Place or China Sea, the student ID number cannot be plugged in by hand. This is due to the fact that the ID number does not correspond with the card's electronic signature. Smallen and others, however, are speaking to other colleges that have already instituted the use of their cards off-campus to find alternative options. "I'm sure we will find a way that won't involve swiping the card, as is done in the dining halls," says Smallen. Another possible influence on the process is that larger stores may not want to equip all aisles with the card readers.

Smallen, Dean of Students Nancy Thompson, Director of Auxiliary Services Irene Cornish and Executive Director of Communications Mike Debraggio will be taking the results of the survey to the February meeting of the local chamber of commerce.

HC Subsidizes Plow

*from **Crisis**, page 1*

Kirkland Town Supervisor Robert Meelen said that although this amount would still be insufficient in covering the plowing costs, Kirkland was willing to accept it because, "at least we would be moving in an upward direction."

However, certain items were cut during the budget review process, and the county could only follow through on half of its projected increase in payment, reducing the projected amount of money per mile to only $4,550. Kirkland, which stood to lose nearly $7000 due to the cut, opted to reject the terms of the contract. As a result, Oneida County became responsible for plowing all of its own roads.

Unfortunately, this led to a large decrease in the quality of snow removal, resulting in poor driving conditions throughout the county, including on College Hill Road. According Kari Szymanski, circulation supervisor at Burke Library, "There were definitely some staff members who couldn't make it up the Hill." When road conditions were particularly bad, staff members received e-mails urging them to use their own judgment about whether to drive up College Hill Road or to use Norton Avenue as an alternate route. On a few occasions, conditions were so dangerous that the road was completely shut down and traffic was diverted to Norton Avenue to make room for snowplows.

Throughout the county, there were similar complaints about the quality of the snow removal. Many felt that the town of Kirkland cleared the streets more thoroughly than the county did. As a result, in the third week of January, representatives from the town and the county decided to meet again to discuss the terms of the contract.

Dennis Davis, deputy commissioner for the Department of Public Works of Oneida County, defended the county's plowing, saying, "We were providing a level of a service that was consistent." However, he did add that, "the town and the college wanted a higher level of service."

The town of Kirkland decided to accept the terms of the contract it had previously rejected, this time asking Hamilton College to contribute money on top of the $4,550 it would receive per mile. Hamilton agreed to contribute $10,000 out of its contingency fund to help cover the plowing costs. Comptroller Sharon Whiting said that the college decided to use this emergency funding because "there was some concern that there would be an accident."

The return of plowing responsibility to the town of Kirkland seems to have improved the quality of snow removal. Despite the heavy snow last week, conditions on College Hill Road were good. Associate Vice President for Facilities and Planning Steven Bellona said that with this transfer of responsibility, "the level of service was increased, which resulted in improved conditions on the Hill."

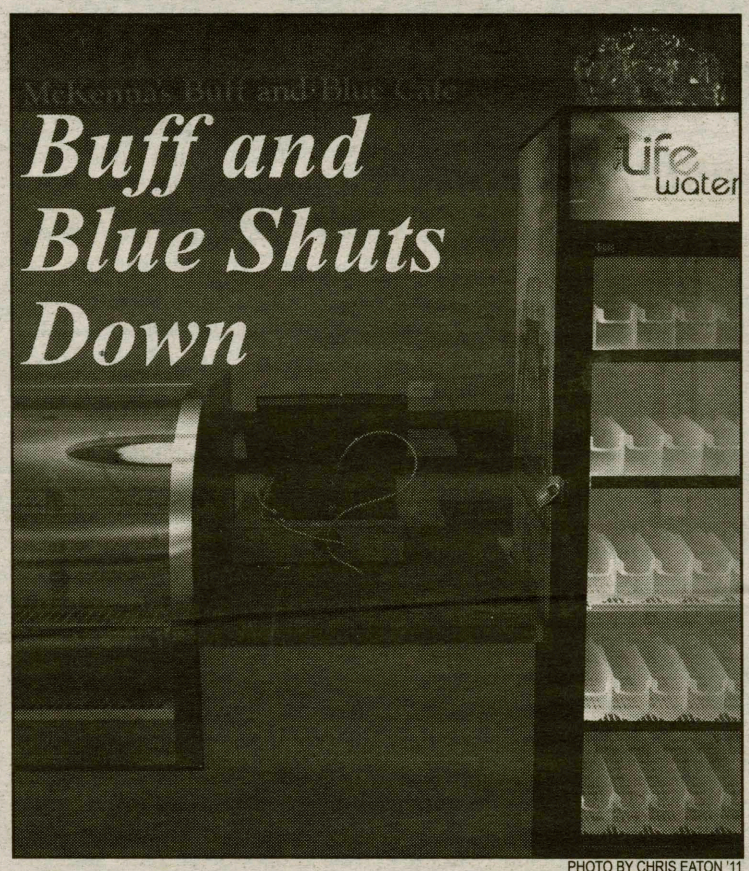


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The McKenna Buff and Blue Cafe has sold its last wrap.

*from **Crisis**, page 1*

the juice bar opened shortly after that. "Since the juice bar originally opened, it has always operated at a loss," Cornish stated. They tried varying food offerings and hours of operation, but none of this helped increase profits. "Last semester we added the bagged lunch option, and that did result in more people going to the Juice Bar," Cornish continued. However, this increase in traffic did not result in any substantial increase in sales.

This semester the popularity of the bagged lunches dropped significantly. "The bagged lunches are convenient, but they're not as good as the food in the other dining halls," commented Jessica Cox '10. Overall, students seemed to clearly favor the other meal options.

"Given financial conditions, it did not seem appropriate to keep the Juice Bar open and operating at a loss," Cornish remarked. The grab-and-go bagged lunch has been moved to the Diner so that students still have that option available to them.

When other students were asked their opinion on the closing of the café, most seemed indifferent. "That sounds like material for the 'Who Cares' section of Thumbs Up Thumbs Down," stated Nick Green '12, a cynic.

The Spectator contacted a former cafe employee who was clearly unhappy with the way the cafe was operated. They pointed out that the juice bar could not stay in business because of the mediocre food options. This employee mockingly discussed how their job consisted primarily of color-coding fruit on the display rack, as well as making brown bag lunches "all day long". Overall, they were surprised Bon Appetit did not realize that a profit was not feasible at the cafe.

OMFG:
JuicyCampus Gone

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

Today is a sad day for gossips, slanderers, sexuality speculators and lovers of Superbad quotes: the gossip website, JuicyCampus.com, has closed for good. The site, which featured Hamilton as one of its over 500 campuses, was the source of heated controversy and several lawsuits. JuicyCampus allowed users to anonymously post gossip, messages and threads specific to their own college, many of which tread the line between gossip and libel.

Duke University alumnus Matt Iverson created the site two years ago and has defended his site from allegations that it was a malicious purveyor of slander and bigotry. The site had a policy of not editing posts, although posts critical of the site often had the tendency to "disappear." Visitors could rank the stories on "juiciness," as well as assert their opinions on the post's veracity.

In a blog post, Iverson stated that it was "clear that we have provided a platform that students have found interesting, entertaining, and fun." He continued: "In these historically difficult economic times, online ad revenue has plummeted... as a result, we are closing down the site as of Feb. 5, 2009."

The site has been described as a "virtual bathroom wall," where threads quickly devolved from gossipy assertions to intense personal attacks and death threats. Hamilton students have not been above posting: almost 350 threads have been posted on the site as of printing time. Their subjects range from "outing" suspected gay students to speculation on who had engaged in lewd behavior in the new Kirner-Johnson water feature.

One student who had been written about on the site, who wished to remain anonymous, was pleased with the site's closure: "The site is evil. Period. I'm happy it's closing."

AP Speaker Talks New Media

*from **Lecture**, page 1*

it's actually the broadband connection," said Kennedy. The speed at which people can get at information has changed since broadband was developed. "The average of 30 hours per weeks that people spend on the media hasn't changes in several years. We just spend less time watching TV and much less time reading the news paper than we used to."

"Google took media out of the container," said Kennedy. After 9/11, news websites experienced an increase in traffic that their infrastructure could not handle, and the sites shut down. "Google made pages of scarped news from other sites and pasted it on Google because their infrastructure was stronger," he explained.

Since this time, people have grown accustomed to controlling their own news via computers and handheld devices. Additionally, the "Millennial" generation, people born from 1979 to 2001, knows nothing but this type of media. "It's more satisfying than getting the news paper in the morning," said Kennedy. "People are not going to go back."

The AP conducted a study of Millennials in 6 cities across the globe to find out what they wanted in, and how they got their news. According to Kennedy, this study revealed that consumers want depth in news but are not getting it.

"A woman in Houston was concerned about the safety of her children and with a story of the Minnesota bridge collapse immediately wanted to know if there were any bridges like that in Texas," said Kennedy. "People want 360 degrees of coverage like that." The media and the AP are shifting to better fit what people want in news. Taking four components of traditional newspapers, (facts, updates, back stories, and future stories), a new type of news is being molded.

"I worked for 25 years in the newspaper and decided those four things and where there were going to be on the front page and now it's up you [the reader]," said Kennedy. "Every story has haphazard connections and you are in charge of putting it together."

The goal then becomes how to link news and advertizing in the four parts and get them together so that Newspapers, once a 60 billion dollar business can still make a profit. "All these changes have screwed up the media business model," said Kennedy. "Business needs to move where it is atomized and still makes money."

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Cutting the Budget

This past Monday, members of the Administration asked the Student Assembly (SA) for suggestions on what to cut from the budget. While it is not unusual for Vice President of Administration and Finance Karen Leach to visit multiple groups to explain the College's finances, it was a welcome step by Acting President Joe Urgo and Dean of Students Nancy Thompson to maintain close contact with the student body. The Spectator, in efforts to open the dialogue to the rest of campus, solicited suggestions via e-mail on this same topic. While many of the suggestions echoed those of the Student Assembly, a few very clear points stood out.

The student responses indicated a willingness to sacrifice the superfluous niceties in order to maintain the more important aspects of the Hamilton community. Students echoed the SA's concerns with excess food at events, unnecessary lighting and heating of buildings not in use. They also pointed towards a possible "printing quota" - after which students would have to pay for printing. However, many students came to the stand for the funding of RA projects and the protection of student and staff worker positions.

An overwhelming majority of responses questioned the necessity of the recently installed outdoor ice skating rink. Many students conveyed their disappointment in the recent investment, some citing its unorthodox size and structure. The rink is not actually an option for a budget cut (as the money has already been spent), but it does bring to light an important concept. When the Student Assembly is looking to allocate funds for projects concerning the general student body, rather than a specific student organization, the student body would like more influence. The Student Assembly took a good step last semester when polling the student body on possible investments of the surplus. However, this survey did not include mention of the outdoor ice rink. Particularly in the current economic climate, students crave at least some semblance of control on where their money will be going. In the future, the Student Assembly should look to involve more students in dialogue concerning large purchases, whether it be in the form of an open meeting or simple an e-mailed survey.

Additionally, there was some discussion questioning whether to move ahead with current plans for capital improvements, such as the renovation of ELS. As the SA Minutes, and the SA Recap on page 2, show, there seem to be compelling reason for the College to go ahead with construction plans. While these reasons appear sound in theory, it is important for the Administration to demonstrate this to the student body with actual numbers once they are obtained. In today's economic climate, it is particularly important that the administration provide as much transparency as possible when making large-scale decisions, such as this. The Administration has made an appropriate first step by going to the SA for suggestions, but must continue to provide as much transparency as possible in their impending financial decisions.

Typically described as apathetic, it is not often that college students clamor to be involved with, or at least informed of the reasoning behind, the allocation of the College's budget. Overall, a significant portion of the student body appears to be asking for just that – an opportunity to have a say in and understand the decisions that are made with the money being spent in their honor. In the coming months, we call on both the Student Assembly and the College's Administration to continue to strive for input and transparency when determining the allocation of the College's budget.

Be an Active Part of Your Community: Help The Spectator

Every year at Hamilton brings a wave of new and diverse faces to the Hill as another class graduates and a new one replaces it. This process refreshes our community, bringing new insight and energy to the campus. But at the Spectator, it can sometimes feel like the rug is being pulled out from beneath our feet. It is not that we don't have a flood of exuberant first-years at our interest meeting at the start of each semester—we assure you, we do—but the paper is a product created from and for the entire community, and the editors can't accomplish this feat alone.

The Spectator has an intelligent and devoted staff of editors and writers committed to representing, reporting and publishing the sentiments, debates and on-goings of the Hill. We aim to ground that editing and writing in the community, reflecting and reacting to all members needs and concerns. That community is the soil that holds our roots, and community participation is our nourishment. We are not asking everyone to write or to edit — if you would like to we would be more than happy to have you — but simply to be an active member of the Hamilton community, and to help us to do the same. Without access to your thoughts, perspectives and endeavors we are just a bunch of students sitting around an office.

There are many ways to contribute. Our policies are set up to include as many voices as possible while putting out a quality product. We welcome letters to the editor from everyone, as long as they are within the bounds of our guidelines. We are open to submissions and ideas for articles for all of our sections (although we do exercise editorial control to ensure the quality of the paper). We pay attention to what Student Assembly does and says, and we keep our ear to the ground for campus gossip and complaints so that we can publicly air those concerns.

Representing the community is not our only goal. An equally important part of our mission is to be an active player in that community, provoking productive debates and demanding that attention be paid to important issues. Over the last year, The Spectator has maintained a vital role in the campus wide discussions concerning a multitude of topics from the creation of the CEC and dorm intrusions to Student Assembly elections and the most eligible bachelors. That reporting is why we spend long hours in the office: we want to create positive change by keeping the community informed and making the College's workings transparent.

The Spectator is a tool of two-way communication - providing information and insight to the community as well as serving as a forum for feedback into the community by community members. Help us do our part to serve you, the Hamilton College community.

Please Recycle Your Copy of
The Spectator

THE SPECTATOR

Editor-in-Chief
Erin W. Hoener

Managing Editor
Kate Tummarello

Senior Editors
Eric Kuhn
Melissa A. Balding
Rebecca Griffin
Kara Labs
Rebekah Mintzer
Kevin O'Connor

News Editors
Scott Bixby
Russ Doubleday
Ezra Rosenberg

Arts & Entertainment Editors
Rachel Pohl
Jennifer Vano

Science & Technology Editors
Saad S. Chaudhry
Elijah T. LaChance

Website Manager
Sean McHugh

Production Editor
Patrick D. Hodgens

Layout Manager
H. Jerome Noel

Opinion Editors
Allison Eck
Thomas Yarnell

Features Editor
Nora Grenfell
Lauren L. Moon

Sports Editors
Kate Greenough
Daniel A. Hagemeier

Photography Editor
Chris E. Eaton

Advertisements Manager
Whitney K. Rosenbaum

Editor Emeritus
Martin E. Connor, Jr.

Copy Editors:
Eleni Panagios, Jessica Brown, Lauren Magaziner, Julia Litzky, Kate Moore, Hadley Keller, Dani Forshay, Jamie Villadolid, Jeffrey Seymour, Isabel Rittenberg, Ben Price, James Kruger

Celebrating our 160th year in print.
First published as The Radiator *in 1848.*

Letters to the Editor Policy

THE SPECTATOR'S LETTER TO THE EDITOR SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A FORUM FOR THE ENTIRE HAMILTON COMMUNITY TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE CAMPUS, LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES. PIECES PUBLISHED IN THE SECTION EXPRESS THE OPINION OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS, AND ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE OPINIONS OF THE SPECTATOR, ITS EDITORS, OR THE MEDIA BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME FROM ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI/AE, FACULTY, FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND HAMILTON COMMUNITY MEMBERS. NEVERTHELESS, THE SPECTATOR HAS THE FOLLOWING POLICIES FOR SUBMISSION:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. Submissions can be sent by e-mail to spec@hamilton.edu or to the Opinion editors (tyarnell@hamilton or aeck@hamilton.edu). The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 650 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* will not edit letters for misspelling, poor grammar or diction.
5. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
6. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

Advertisement Policy

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. Subscriptions are $50 per year. Our offices are located on the third floor of Bristol Campus Center. The deadline for advertisements is Tuesday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

OPINION

Scientific Obama

How the new president will affect one student's career and future

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology editor

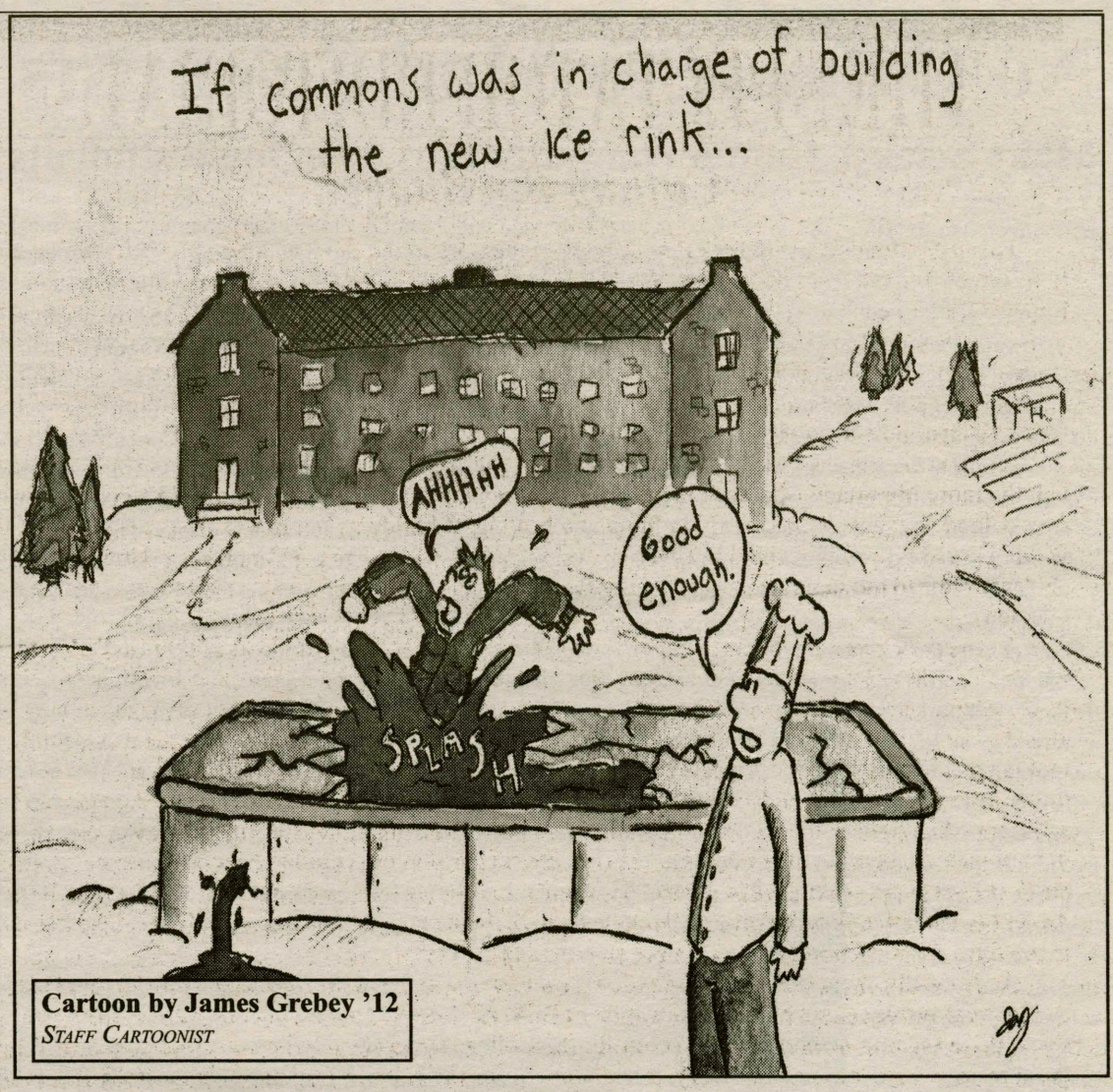
When historians try to sum up the 2008 presidential election in one word, they will probably use "change." Change was a buzzword in the campaign, and as a crowd of millions, both around the Capitol and around the world, watched Barack Obama take the oath and become the 44th President of the United States, it was the word on everybody's lips.

As I watched the scene, poignant in symbolism and long-awaited though it was, I found myself wondering: What will actually change in my life? Will I see any difference in my day-to-day existence and activities? Will my immediate future be impacted in any way by this change of power?

As I walked around campus afterward, I realized that the food in Commons still tasted the same, that I still needed to prepare for my microbiology lab, and that the people I dislike on campus hadn't – unfortunately – vanished in puffs of Obama-vented red, white, and blue smoke and echoing strains of "Yes we can." But then, I hadn't been foolish enough to expect that, right? Well then, what did I expect? And will Obama be doing anything about it in the next four years?

Let's start with what he most certainly will not be doing: Barack Obama will not be reducing the cost for me to go to college one cent. In 2007, the Democratic Congress pushed through a bill that was supposedly designed to cut college costs by lowering interest rates on financial aid loans. When I inquired with the Vermont Students Assistance Corporation (VSAC) as to what kind of cost reductions I would

*see **Will Obama**, page 6*



Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

Face Off: Should We Have More Requirements?

Yes

by Thomas Yarnell '10
opinion Editor

A liberal arts education should force students outside of their comfort zone. Without distribution requirements, Hamilton shortchanges the entire student body out of what it has to offer. More variety in students' class selection would end up strengthening them both personally, as they would have to rise to the challenge, and also academically, as their mode of critical thinking would develop beyond their areas of concentration.

Hamilton's recommended goals do not provide students with the same benefits that requirements would offer. Many students claim that they are better writers by the time they graduate, and that is in part due to the writing intensive requirements. The school deserves credit for upholding such standards, but without additional distribution requirements, they are not enough.

Let us take, for example, a student concentrating in math. To fulfill his writing intensive requirement, he could take two introductory level English classes and a math classes in which all he has to write are math proofs.

With distribution requirements, he would have to take a variety of classes that would necessitate learning at least a few different types of writing. This would benefit him as a student during his time at Hamilton and then as a graduate in the professional world.

The only other requirements, those of quantitative literacy and physical education, should also remain a staple of the institution. However, students can fulfill the Q-Lit. requisite by passing a test that is no more difficult than the math section of the SAT, and learning how to play squash in PE contributes little to a person's academic experience. These should not be the only ways in which Hamilton prepares its students for the future.

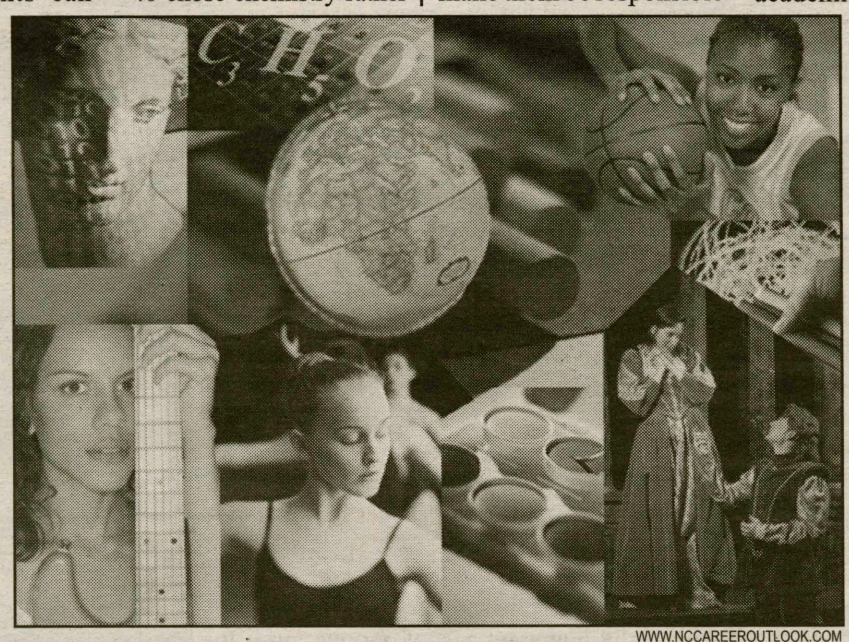
The College provides specific advising for the pre-professional tracks that you would expect such as business, law, and health. Beyond that, it is up to students to choose classes that they think might help them in their future careers.

What if some students want to be, ahem, journalists? Yes, everyone has an academic adviser to set them on the right path, but that person may not know the best way to help in terms of certain careers.

If students were forced to take classes from a more varied selection of departments, they would learn new skills that they could apply to their field of choice. In this age of new media, how could an aspiring journalist not benefit from a course in computer science?

In the Jan. 23, 2009 issue, *The Spectator* reported that Mr. Edward C. Taylor '46 chose chemistry rather than biology "to fulfill a science requirement," and then decided to concentrate in the subject after discovering how much he liked it. Taylor has since invented a drug for cancer treatment and recently donated $1 million to the College for chemistry research.

What can we learn from Taylor's story? Among other things, we can see that distribution requirements would not only benefit students as individuals, but also the generations of Hamiltonians to come.



A liberal arts education encompasses a variety of disciplines.

No

by Lauren Magaziner '12
opinion writer

One of the most interesting aspects of Hamilton is its open curriculum. Not having distribution requirements is supposed to allow students to take classes that they want and make them be responsible for their own scholarly journey.

According to the Hamilton website, "Hamilton expects students to take responsibility for their educational choices." Thus, students are given the independence to learn about the things that interest them.

The main reason Hamilton does not have distribution requirements is the most obvious one: The Hamilton website states, "We trust students with the freedom to select courses that make sense for their own intellectual development." No one should have to take courses they don't want to take.

The most wonderful part of Hamilton's academics is that everyone is in a class because he or she wants to be there. Because people enroll in classes that actually interest them, you will be hard pressed to find a class that does not have multiple people volunteering answers and being actively engaged in the conversation.

As a less obvious argument for the open curriculum, Hamilton's open curriculum helps puts our school on the map. The school is one of very few to offer this freedom.

If the College were to reestablish distribution requirements, it would lose one of its most distinguishing characteristics. Many students apply to Hamilton primarily for the opportunities offered within such a system.

Some students argue against the open curriculum, saying that we should take a well- balanced load of courses. However, distribution requirements would impose an unnecessary burden on those students who greatly benefit from such academic freedom. If students want a well-balanced academic diet, they can take classes that satiate that appetite, but they shouldn't force others to follow suit.

Students would have a harder time declaring a concentration if they were worried about getting distribution requirements out of the way early on. Furthermore, distribution requirements would make it more difficult for students to fulfill their concentration requirements and discourage anyone from taking on a second concentration.

Even though Hamilton claims to have an open curriculum, there are still certain requirements that have to be fulfilled: the quantitative literacy requirement, the writing intensive requirement, and the physical education requirement.

These requirements are in place to make sure that Hamilton students do have a grasp of a multitude of subjects and can write well by the time they graduate. As long as graduates are competent in writing (with 3 writing intensive courses) and math (with the Q-lit exam or one course), then having the college dictate classes is unnecessary and unwanted.

No Offense to Mad Scientists

Make Science Center computer labs open to all students

by Lauren Moon '10
Features Editor

Towards the end of last semester, I sat in the chemistry computer lab checking my e-mail. I chose to go into the chemistry lab because it's a straight shot from the Atrium, thus most convenient for me. Another girl sitting near me appeared to be printing some documents.

She was fiddling with the printer and pressing buttons haphazardly when suddenly the computer lit up and started spouting out dozens of pages of what appeared to be backed up printing jobs. The girl examined the pages briefly before exclaiming loudly and wildly throwing the paper into the trash.

The other silent students in the lab, myself included, turned and looked at the girl as she burst out, "This is the CHEMISTRY lab and this printer is STRICTLY FOR CHEMISTRY STUDENTS! What the f@*k do these people think they are doing printing out this bull $h*t?!"

I turned back to my e-mail, frightened she would spot me and recognize me as someone who has certainly never been seen in a chemistry class (and certainly never will be). I had never even considered that the department was possibly adverse to students of other disciplines using its computers. As a "dark sider" I have never felt uncomfortable at parties populated by pastel-colored pants and popped collars, nor as an Editor of the Spectator have I ever felt uneasy chatting up rival publications, so I suppose it seemed a natural notion to me that all computer labs would be welcome to any members of the community.

The enraged chemistry student with printer woes certainly made me think differently.

I returned this semester with apprehensions about my usual schedule of stopping by the chemistry lab after class. However, I resolved that I would only check my e-mail in said lab. By not printing anything, I hoped to avoid the wrath of any infuriated chemists lurking about. As I walked into the lab, I saw notice on the door depicting a huge stop sign, along with a message indicating that the lab was designated primarily for chemistry students and that printing was not allowed. It also stated the lab would be locked after 7 p.m., allowing only students with the door's access code thereafter. I found the warnings by the blatantly angry chemistry department to be off-putting and borderline abrasive.

It has come to my attention that the paper in the computer labs of each respective science department is paid for by the department themselves. We cannot blame the departments for these unwelcoming messages, as they have unfortunately been burdened with the costs. It seems to me that the fault lies in the administrative offices that did not offer to foot the bill for these departments' labs.

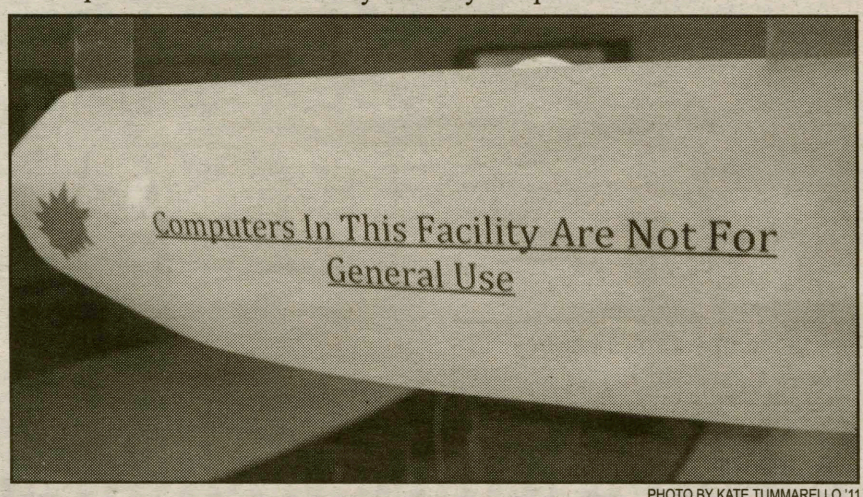


PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

Signs like this one around the Science Center discourage students without science-related academic work from using the computers

I have had classes in the science center ranging from French to Art History to Sociology. I also have friends that took Japanese, Philosophy and Economics in this building (all of which were held post the re-opening of the new KJ). If the registrar is still open to booking classes outside of the departments built into the Science Center, then why are there still private computer labs in central locations making great strides to exclude students?

Defining a Decade: The Era of Obama

by J. Max Currier '10
Opinion Contributor

I hear that some two million people watched last Obama's inauguration last Tuesday, nearly doubling the previous record at LBJ's over four decades ago. I was there on Election Day, and by eight o'clock the morning after, every paper in the whole city was already sold.

Much of the excitement is anticipation of a "new era," a vague but common phrase. In the past we have not been sure what era we might be in while we're in it, and sometimes not even afterwards.

In this new century we seem to describe almost everything as "post-": whether "post-Cold War" or "post-modernism" or post-whatever. As early as 1995, *The New York Times* lamented this prefix as "the tepid label we reflexively invoke these days [that] carries a suggestion of self-doubt…as if our own historical moment is somehow after the fact, overshadowed by the more significant era that preceded it." Indeed, knowing somehow where we are historically is important in understanding where we are going.

> **"In terms of political theory, scholars have increasingly accepted that America has transformed from a classical republican society to a liberal society."**

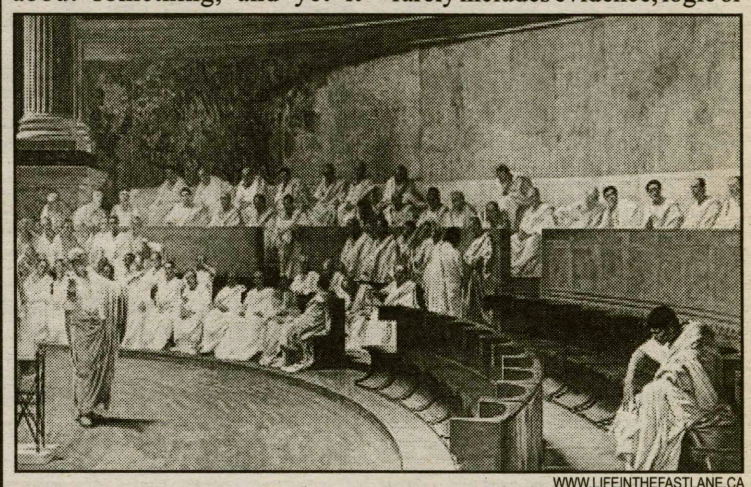
Writer Jonah Goldberg believes we live in the "ought decade" because, Goldberg writes, "this decade ought to have been about something, and yet it doesn't feel that way." Instead of manufacturing tangible products, we have made money off of money. The service and entertainment industries have grown faster and larger than any others, and our superior military power has been negated by the concepts of mutually assured destruction and asymmetric warfare.

Almost all indices of prosperity, ecological sustainability, health and general well-being suggest the United States is lagging. Tom Friedman wrote in May that these may be uncomfortable truths, that "we are not who we think we are." And it apparently hasn't made us much happier either: according to the Happy Planet Index, the United States ranks 150 of 178 nations.

In 1999, Francis Fukuyama characterized the last several decades as what he called "The Great Disruption." He wrote, "the culture of individualism, which in the laboratory and the marketplace leads to innovation and growth, spilled over into the realm of social norms, where it corroded virtually all forms of authority and weakened the bonds holding families, neighborhoods, and nations together."

Given the current national and global economic crisis, many experts are concluding that individualism in the marketplace isn't always very good, at least not without vigilant regulations.

Susan Jacoby's refreshing study, *The Age of American Unreason*, adds another dimension to our current 'era' in tracing the declining value of knowledge since the Enlightenment and its American equivalent. She writes, "America is ill with a powerful mutant strain of intertwined ignorance, anti-rationalism, and anti-intellectualism." Popular "reality TV" rewards selfishness and vindictiveness, and political discourse rarely includes evidence, logic or civility.



WWW.LIFEINTHEFASTLANE.CA

Some scholars argue that, like the Roman Empire, America may collapse due to ethnocentrism.

In terms of political theory, scholars have increasingly accepted that America has transformed from a classical republican society (one emphasizing civic virtue) to a liberal society (emphasizing *individual freedoms*).

Indeed, since World War II,

see ***Pragmatic,*** *page 7*

Thumbs up

The ice skating rink: Nothing says class like a frozen, above-ground, white-trash swimming pool in the middle of campus. *What is this? An ice skating rink for ants? How are we supposed to teach people to skate if they can't even fit on the rink?*

Kirkland Endowment offers $4,000 for research to support the "needs and interests of women at Hamilton." But I thought we already had a knitting club.

Ghostface (White People) Killah on the Hill: Looks like that African masks exhibit will come in handy after all.

The Blood Drive Friday: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Me blacked out: 6:00 p.m Friday till 9 a.m. Sunday.

Thumbs down

Fencing team practicing in the alumni basketball gym: I guess that makes just about as much sense as having a fencing team.

Lunch ladies shaming us in McEwen: Unfortunately, I won't feel guilty about wasting food until a real Native American cries on my plate full of slop.

Getting into grad schools: Unless you accepted under the condition that I get to go with you, I don't want to hear about it.

Off-campus house parties: This is not what I meant when I said I wanted to be some place hot, tight and moist.

Girls on the Fitness Center mats: More crunches, less mouth stretching.

Who Cares?

The Buff & Blue Café closes: Oh.

The Steelers: Way to beat the Cardinals.

Sig Live Role-Playing Party: Because chicks dig guys with swords and capes.... and virginities.

The yeti you brought home from the snow fort party... not like you could have done much better.

Yearbook pictures: I'm about as likely to show up as the yearbook is to come out.

Scottish Dance Club: You better dance your way out of my inbox before you become the next capoeira. Sad, lonely and banished to the farthest corners of Milbank.

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

Will Obama Bring "Change" to Lives of Hamilton Students?

*from **Scientific**, page 5*

be seeing, the answer was, "Not a penny."

This bill only applies to new college loans, so my family, already in debt from having sent me to college in the first place, gets no break as they increase that debt to keep me here and help me on to medical school. On the campaign trail, Obama made several proposals to lower the cost of going to college. None of these proposals, even if they were signed into law today, would have any effect on those of us already at Hamilton.

As a neuroscience major, I was elated when I heard the newly-sworn-in President say, "We will restore science to its rightful place." Upon reflection, however, it seems Obama is already backing away from that promise, at least on the issues that matter most to me.

During the campaign, Obama pledged to roll back former President Bush's restrictions on embryonic stem cell research that delayed potentially life-saving therapy from getting to millions of Americans and took jobs from thousands of science majors like me. However, Obama is now delaying any reversal, citing the same organizational difficulties Bush noted when he instituted the restriction in the first place.

Also, Obama has not yet made a statement on his pledges to increase funding for autism research, my intended line of work.

When I get out of medical school, I will have a huge education debt that Obama will have utterly failed to reduce. I still have hope, though. Perhaps President Obama will make good on his campaign promises and I'll have a job to help me pay that debt off.

Pragmatic Approach Best for New America

*from **Defining**, page 7*

with the notable exception of those young men and women in uniform, Americans have not sacrificed much in the name of civic virtue. Only several years after Kennedy advised at his inaugural, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," Carter asked Americans to reduce heating energy by wearing a sweater—few did and most mocked him.

"Somewhere along the way," commentator Bill Maher lamented, "it became very un-American to ask for sacrifice." Author Judith Warner defined 1980 to present as "an era of unbridled deregulation, wealth-enhancing perks for the already well-off… of the recasting of greed as goodness, the equation of bellicose provincialism with patriotism, the reframing of bigotry as small-town decency."

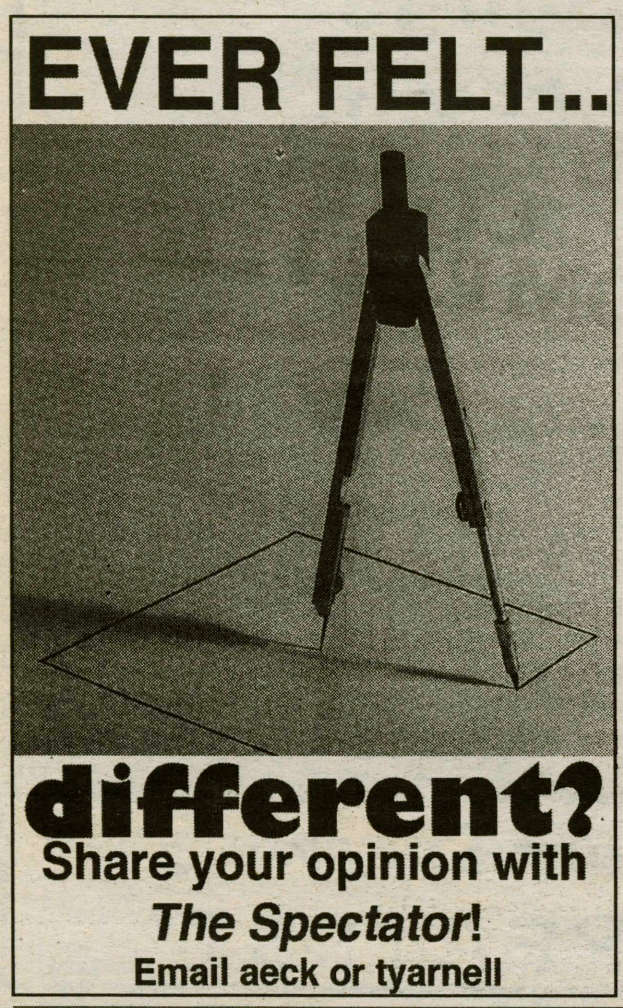
Maybe the most appropriate description of our time is "post-partisan," even though it is "post" and even though it may be an idealistic hope. Indeed, maybe we are looking for pragmatism above all else. For example, Tom Friedman's new book *Hot, Flat, and Crowded* argues not for or against increased market management but for "smarter" market management to encourage the growth of a green-collar economy.

America has experienced a steep decline in moral authority, thus its influence weakens. It seems too that our social, familial, political and international relationships have decayed so grossly that a reemergence is necessary. Indeed, it seems a "new era" is ready and waiting but we may be too deregulated and too averse to authority.

I find it not coincidental that former *Atlantic* editor Cullen Murphy recently wrote a book titled *Are We Rome?* The Roman Empire fell apart on luxurious baths, military conquests, and ethnocentrism. Murphy, though, is optimistic, suggesting that Romans sought self-satisfaction whereas Americans seek self-improvement, which may allow America to save itself. Tom Friedman is optimistic, too, declaring that America "still [has] the most creative, diverse, innovative culture and open society." Yet, he says, "We are living on borrowed time and borrowed dimes."

If I had to pick a terse, encapsulating, preferably even inspiring, dictum to reverberate in proceeding, I might start with Rick Warren, controversial Obama pastor previously noteworthy for his advice in *The Purpose Driven Life*. The first sentence reads, "It's not about you."

If we can get there first, we can begin working together on everything else.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

A Plea: Is there any sort of regulatory agency at Hamilton presiding over the sundry printed goods resting on our tables around campus? Is there any clause stipulating some form of benevolent euthanasia for publications that are simply gasping in their fading moments of life?

I refer of course to the Young Socialist. Disregarding the significant moral qualms of socialism itself (disruption of the natural flow of goods, omnipotent control over individuals, and the seizure of funds from those who have toiled hard to reallocate them to those who have not earned it), the very right to this publication's existence seems doubtful.

The Young Socialist is pitiful. I can only assume it uses the singular because no more than one person wishes to be associated with this rubbish. It shows, too. It reads something like a cross between 1930's soviet propaganda and a 5th grader's first attempt at an expository essay. The irony is unbearable.

While TYS claims to be enlightened and to overcome the unthinking capitalists, it simply regurgitates old propaganda unconsciously and thoughtlessly. It is in the college's best interest to destroy this publication and any history or evidence of its existence for fear that its atrocious quality and substance may scare away potential applicants and any friends or related individuals of Hamilton College that it must surely offend.

Much like an old cat yowling far past its time on a fence post, someone should step up, and finally throw the metaphorical boot to knock it down forever, putting an end to this racket.

Steven Saurbier '12

Dear Editor:

The publication "Afternoon Delight" started as sort of a joke. We all know that's the truth. It emerged from a group of friends sitting in the back room of Commons into a publication that was so ridiculous people didn't know whether to read it or use it as a napkin. At one fateful lunch, we thought to ourselves, "What if we actually did this? Why not?" And thus, "Afternoon Delight" was born.

And for some reason we kept it going. Maybe we saw the need for an alternative humor publication, maybe we realized the need for a list of parties, or maybe we were just bored. But whatever the reason, we gained a band of followers and suddenly people were contacting us asking to write and submit material. Every time we wanted to stop, someone new would convince us to continue by lending us their support.

So why did we stop? We stopped because the Media Board put pressure on us to become a legitimate publication. It became clear that the only way to continue the project indefinitely would be to gain the approval of the Media Board. For all those who aren't familiar with it, the Media Board is a group of the heads of all campus publications. In the Media Board constitution, it is stated that, "The Hamilton College Student Media Board has been established to publish undergraduate publications and produce undergraduate radio and television programming that represent the student body as a whole and not any particular group of students." It is also stated that, "Although the Board elects editors, it does not dictate what may or may not be printed or broadcasted."

Our staff put together a very professional presentation for the Media Board, in hopes of being approved and getting funding for further printing. We started by discussing how the publication started and why we are doing it. Then explained how the project is sustainable. Lastly, we demonstrated how "Afternoon Delight" met all of the requirements the Media Board constitution outlines.

The Media Board debated the issue for almost 45 minutes. But although it brings us consolation to know that we were taken seriously, ultimately our application was flat out rejected, and we are sadly not allowed to publish. We were extremely disappointed and surprised by this outcome for a number of reasons. First, the Media Board's Constitution states that the board does not dictate what may or may not be printed or broadcasted, and we were just censored by them. Board members raised legitimate concerns about specific aspects of Afternoon Delight -- concerns we are listening to and are trying to address as we prepare to re-apply. In addition, we have been receiving input from peers, and holding regular staff meetings to completely revamp the format and content of "Afternoon Delight."

Our mission statement is now a lot less vague. After a good deal of stumbling around in the dark, we have found our purpose. All the concerns, all the pros and cons, all the feedback we've received, it's all been absorbed and assimilated. We've received a lot of criticism but we – and our publication – is stronger because of it. We know exactly what we want to do and we've come up methodical ways to do it. We are prepared to reapply to the Media Board, in hopes of gaining their support so that we can serve the campus once again.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Andrew Portuguese, Jeff Escalante, and Chris Smith

Dear Hamilton College Students,

Thank you so much to all who helped provide gifts to our Hospice bereaved children. Your generosity was amazing! The holidays can be very difficult for children when their parent is ill or has died. You truly helped these children have a brighter holiday because of your generosity and truly changed their Christmas for them. The Hamilton College community has been so supportive of our grieving children for many years and we really appreciate your continuing support of our bereaved children. You are all awesome!

Sincerely,

Patricia Shenberger, LCSW, CT
Director of Social Services
Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc.

ADVERTISEMENTS

EUGENO BURLINO, OUR FOUNDER

THE "KING of PIZZA" SINCE 1914

O'SCUGNIZZO'S

WORLD FAMOUS, ONE OF A KIND PIZZA,
GOURMET SANDWICHES, SPECIALTY SALADS & SOUPS

FREE DELIVERY!*

Hamilton College Specials! *

LARGE
CHEESE PIZZA
& 3# WINGS
& 2 LITER SODA
$19.99 !!!

"Fabulous Focaccia Sandwiches"
$5.00 Baby Size
Add Soup or Salad & a Drink for $2.00!!

"The Best" Homemade SOUPS
$3.00
BIG BOWL
w/Garlic Bread

Our Unique Fresh Specialty Salads
w/Garlic Bread
YOUR CHOICE
$3.95 Small
$7.95 Large
Choose From:
Antipasto, Spring Mix, Spinach, Pasta or Marinated Vegetable

LARGE
CHEESE PIZZA
$8.50 !!!

34 Chenango Ave., Clinton
(Next to Dollar General) PHONE: 853-1111

WE DELIVER LUNCH & DINNER!
OPEN DAILY:

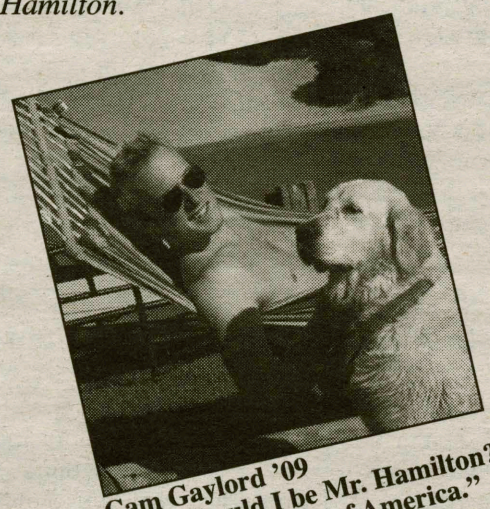
For Lunch, Dinner & Late Night Snacks
"BABY, WE'RE THE GREATEST"

Presenting the Debut:
Mr. Hamilton Pageant

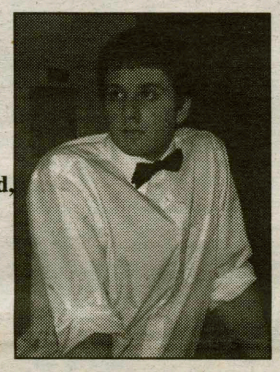
on Thursday, February 12 in the Annex, 8:00 p.m.

Read on to get to know this year's candidates and see why they think they are...*Mr. Hamilton.*

Colin Cornelius Forwood '09
"i don't know, what? b#$%h please! i'm obvi better than just about everyone. pshya! ;)"

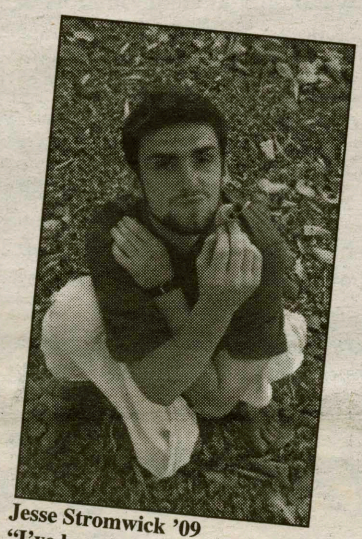


Cam Gaylord '09
"Why should I be Mr. Hamilton?: The United States of America."



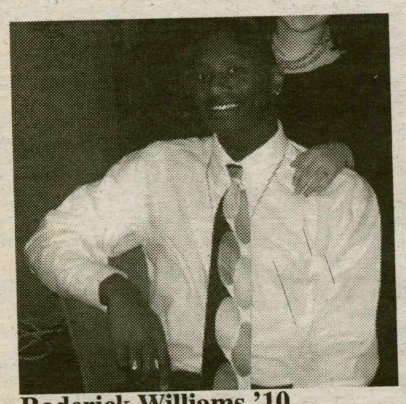
Kevin Graepel '11
"If I could, would I? Always."

Kevin Osborne '09
"Why should I be Mr. Hamilton is not even a question. I am Mr. Hamilton."

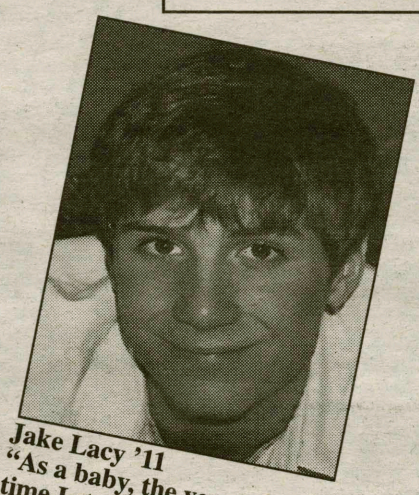


Jesse Stromwick '09
"I've been bitter for some time now due to my last contest performance: winning an insultingly low $10 for coming in second place in a beauty pageant in monopoly. Don't think that libel went unnoticed by community chest."

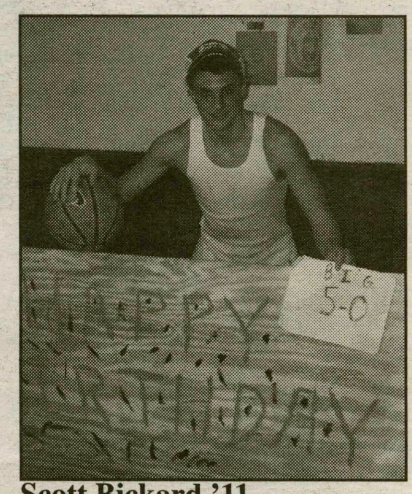
Mike Schmidt '10
"I participate in a diverse array of organizations and groups which is indicative of Hamilton's liberal arts spirit. And I have a killer body."



Roderick Williams '10
"Stain. It's time for a change."

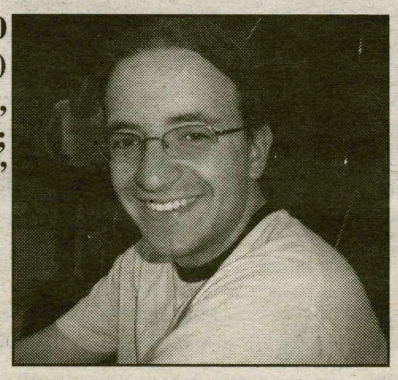


Jake Lacy '11
"As a baby, the very first time I stood up my pants fell down. That set the tone for everything to come."

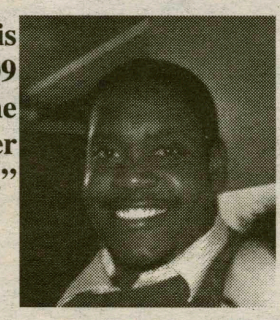


Scott Bickard '11
"My father has been calling me 'boy Hamilton' all my life. It's only natural I become Mr. Hamilton. Go Knickerbockers."

Stephen Michel '10
(In haiku)
"I'm funny, nerdy, smart, and easy to talk to; and I have great hair."



Renaldo Davis '09
"The darker the berry, the sweeter the juice."



Not pictured: Ricky Bottini, Tom Gillespie, and Andrew Taub

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

By Rafael Freire '12
FEATURES WRITER

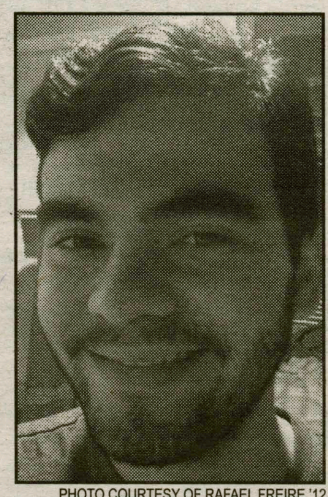


PHOTO COURTESY OF RAFAEL FREIRE '12

I am one of the many international students at Hamilton who, for rather apparent reasons, can't vote in the U.S. That doesn't mean I am entirely excluded, even excused from, the responsibility of following the major events in American politics—after all I have committed to live in this country for the next few years and will be immediately affected by the policies the American government puts forth.

In terms of political events, nothing is as major now as the election of President Barack Obama. Obama is routinely on mainstream news and an intimate part of dorm-room banter: the man is everywhere. It is virtually impossible to fully ignore Obama, but my feelings towards him have fluctuated everywhere from affected enthusiasm to nearly complete indifference. I remember the day he was elected (I say this at the risk of making an event that I understand to be important sound banal) feeling nothing but perturbed by the noise my friends were making downstairs celebrating Obama's victory. I was trying to finish my homework for the next morning and when I eventually joined them, it was just to take advantage of the unexpected source of fun that a party on Tuesday night can be.

Again, I am not an American citizen and therefore I speak as someone whose feelings towards the future of the United States are not as strong as yours. Still, being a foreigner didn't stop me from being almost in tears while listening to Obama's speech on Inauguration Day. I do believe the image associated with President Barack Obama is generally positive. I don't know anyone who, at least privately, doesn't expect that some political change for the better will come from him.

One time I heard from an American the following: "One good thing about having Obama as our president is that he is going to help the United States change its image to the rest of the world. I'm sure that when we elected Bush for the first time, people from all around the world started hating the American government, though they might still have had good feelings about the American people. When we elected Bush for the second time, however, foreign people must have hated both the American government and the American people." I was living in Brazil on both occasions that my friend was referring to in his statements. I can tell you he was right.

Today in Spanish class we were talking about freedom in the U.S. After a brief discussion, we concluded that the U.S does a good job in assuring that its citizens are free according to its democratic ideology. Then someone said that the U.S. gets pretty bad when it comes to imposing this ideology upon other countries. Then a third student spoke up: "But now we have Obama as our president."

Spotted: *Who Is That?*

PHILIP LOWREY '12

by Jessie Brown '12
FEATURES WRITER

Students use various types of decorations to make their generic dorm rooms feel somewhat like home. Most use pictures of friends and family and posters of their favorite celebrities. In this respect, Philip Lowrey, '12, is anything but average: he has a suit of armor.

As implied by the suit of armor, Lowrey is interested in the medieval period and knights. At seven he and his father purchased Heroes of Might and Magic, their first game for the family computer.

To encourage his son's newfound interest, Lowrey's father bought him the suit of armor at a used furniture/antiques store for $75. It is one solid 5 foot tin structure, made in Mexico.

This makes it different from most suits of armor available for purchase. Those displayed at the chain Medieval Times are at least 6 feet in height, cost upwards of $1000, and are thus presumably made of something heavier than tin.

Its lightweight, single piece construction made transportation from his home to school easy. "[It] was merely a matter of sticking it in the van," Lowrey said.

Why bring it to school in the first place? "It does better here than at home, as I need my glasses to the see the inside of my [bedroom from here]," he jokes.

The suit of armor sits at the foot of his bed, plainly visible from the hallway. He is not worried about theft or damage, though. "I can't imagine how it would get damaged." Smuggling it from his room elsewhere without detection would be no easy feat, he noted. He also admits he is not especially attached to it, although it does look pretty cool.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

by Johanna Pajak '09
FEATURES COLUMNIST

For many, Hamilton College can be a tough place for sex. This is not just because we are confined to those twin-size beds but because inherent in the Hamilton environment is a pervasive lack of anonymity that many would like to have at this point in their sexual lives. As a pair, anonymity and sex haven't been treated well in the past, but I think for most Hamilton students anonymity in sex doesn't carry the same meaning that it does in the red-light districts of our contemporary imagination.

Many of us, and for good reason, wish to keep our sexual escapades from becoming the stuff of Sunday morning brunch chit-chat, the news that's passed along with the table salt. Others would, in fact, prefer a certain degree of anonymity with their sexual partners wishing to, as they say, "pass like two ships in the night." In both cases, particularly the latter, the wish to go incognito is, at least in part, rooted in the fact that sex can often be endlessly embarrassing.

queef (kwē´f) [SLANG] ***n.*** **1.** pockets of air resembling flatulence that are expelled from the vagina.

The fact of the matter is that a lot of incredibly uncomfortable things can happen when you combine nudity, drinking, sweat, physical activity, and body cavities. This being the case, some would rather not make eye contact with one who bears witness to such inevitable sexual snafus (especially in class, on Martin's Way, at The Diner, etc.). An idealist would probably say that one should only partake in this most intimate of activities with a person he or she is completely comfortable sharing all aspects of their bodies with. This would include the good and the bad, the sexy pre-romp make-up and the brutal morning after face, the perfect kiss outside Bundy Dining Hall and the echoing queef inside Bundy West.

My point is, a new age is upon us (and has been since the 60s). In our contemporary post-puritanical times, sex can be any number of things. It can be (as Maude Lebowski so eloquently put it) a "zesty enterprise," it can be run-of-the-mill, and, yes, it can be sacred. But when it comes to having casual sex, in order to truly enjoy ourselves, we're going to have to get used to facing some awkward moments and I think we would all be better people if we got over our sexual selves and learned to laugh at those things that make us most human.

In moving forward with this mentality, I hope to take a multi-dimensional look, not just at sex *per se*, but at relationships, sexuality and social life in general. To make this column the full-bodied, flavorful, sex-talk stew that it should be, I'm going to need your quandaries, comments and concerns. **Please send your thoughts to: specbetweenthesheets@gmail.com**. Names will be kept confidential, advice will be practical, and humor will be plentiful.

HOC Heads South For The Winter

by Sean Ryan '11
FEATURES WRITER

Last month on a sunny afternoon in Pinan, Ecuador, a group of Hamilton students found themselves embattled in a soccer match against native Ecuadorians. The stakes were high – the two teams wagered a two-liter bottle of soda on the outcome. At fourteen thousand feet above sea level, the Hamiltonians were light headed and gasping for air while their opponents ran effortlessly across the field.

"The game was a ton of fun," said Hamilton student Callie Krumholz '10, "but it was definitely the most out of breath I've ever been."

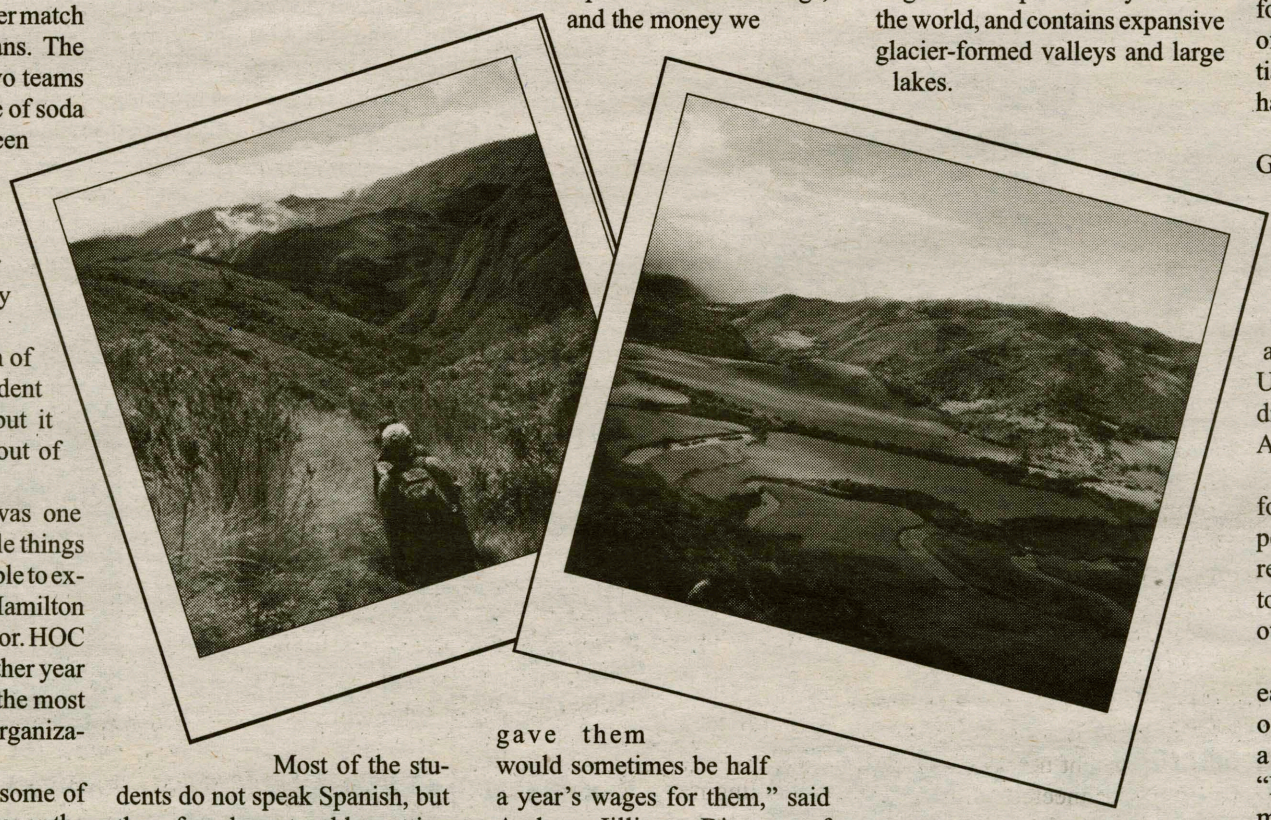
The soccer match was one of the numerous incredible things Hamilton students were able to experience on last month's Hamilton Outing Club trip to Ecuador. HOC has made the trip every other year for ten years. It is one of the most intensive excursions the organization takes.

Ecuador is home to some of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet, and the trip's itinerary covers nearly every part of the country's environmental spectrum.

"I really think the best part of the trip was the diversity of the activities we did, from the day hikes to exploring the cities."

One setting the group experienced quite intimately was the rural village of Pinan in the northern part of the country.

The students stayed there for five days, living with host families who agreed to accommodate them.



Most of the students do not speak Spanish, but they found no trouble getting acquainted with their hosts and the other villagers despite the language barrier.

"My host family was very shy and quiet," said Dave Goldberg '11. "I was still able to communicate with them though and they were very nice people."

"All of the money the students spent in Pinan went directly into the village itself, which greatly stimulated its largely agrarian economy.

"We would pay the villagers to accompany us on hikes and help us with various things, and the money we gave them would sometimes be half a year's wages for them," said Andrew Jillings, Director of Outdoor Leadership.

While in Pinan, the group also paid for a large feast for the villagers, which is one of the very few times they are able to eat meat since they depend so heavily on their livestock for manual labor.

The most strenuous part of the trip was perhaps "The Trek," – a four day hike straight through the Paramo ecosystem, which lies between the forest line and the permanent snow line in the Andes Mountains. Paramo is one of the largest neotropical ecosystems in the world, and contains expansive glacier-formed valleys and large lakes.

Their goal was to get further away from civilization and experience the environment of the Andes as authentically as possible.

"The Trek was a great time to get to know each other, and it was a way to find out about everyone's individual skill set," said Nick Green '12. "It was also my favorite part of the trip, because I think it conjures images of what beauty in the mountains really is."

In Paramo, the students' interaction with their guides was at times as fascinating as the environment that surrounded them. They found that their guides were aware of the recent American Presidential Election, and they all seemed to have an opinion of the outcome.

"One guide, Edgar," said Green, "knew Obama had won, and he was optimistic that things would get better as a result. I think they, along with a lot of the world, have had a view of America as a being a bully, and now they are hopeful that the U.S. will have a more open and diplomatic policy towards Latin America."

By all accounts, the students found the trip to be a fantastic experience, and one that they would recommend anyone with a desire to explore nature and experience other cultures to go on.

"One night Andrew asked each of us what our favorite part of the trip was, and each of us had a different answer," said Green. "I think that says a lot about how much people enjoyed it."

L-R: Trekking towards the Cloud Forest, and the Napo River Valley landscape.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALLIE KRUMHOLZ '10

"Friends" Shows Drunk Driving Affects Everyone

by Hadley Keller '12
Features Writer

On the rainy night of Nov. 11, 2000, four college students died in a tragic accident near Colgate University after hitching a ride with a drunk driver. Throughout the month of February, Hamilton's Buff and Blue Café will display an exhibit dedicated to honoring the lives of these four students and to educating the community on the dangers of drunk driving. The exhibit, fittingly and eerily titled "Friends: One Day. One Wrong Turn," features a timeline of events on the evening of Nov. 11. Visitors start at the beginning of what looks like a fun night out. They read records of phone calls and text messages between the college students and trace the students' steps throughout the night.

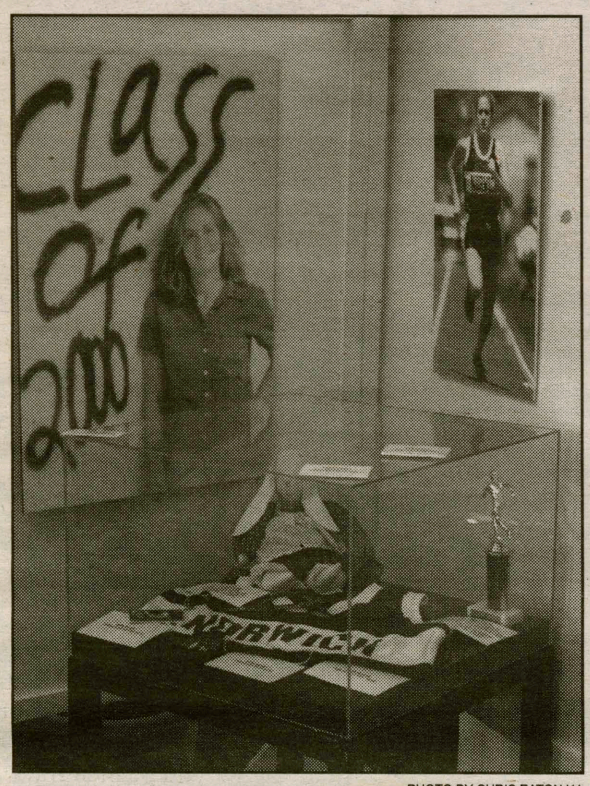


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Ultimately the exhibition reveals how the girls flag down a Jeep carrying three other students on the short ride back to campus – until the Jeep's inebriated driver loses control on a curve, and the lives of Katie Almeter, Emily Collins, Rachel Nargiso and Kevin King are cruelly cut short.

In addition to the detailed timeline, the exhibit features a collection of harrowingly personal items which belonged to the late students.

"What this exhibit does," explained Hamilton Director of Athletics David Thompson, who spearheaded bringing the display to Hamilton, "is it displays personal items as a reminder – these are kids just like us [here at Hamilton]. They had interests, potential." There are some even deeper connections with the crash here at Hamilton as well. Thompson, an alumnus of Colgate University himself, first heard about the accident from a wellness teacher at Hamilton whose daughter was one of the students tragically killed on Nov. 11. He thought of bringing the exhibit (which, as one of two nearly identical showcases, travels to various locations in the New York State area) to Hamilton before but couldn't come up with sufficient space for it. When the juice bar was completed, Thompson thought it would be a perfect location for "Friends." Thompson's hope, which is surely shared by anyone familiar with the exhibit, is that it will leave an impression on the Hamilton community. As the Director of Athletics explained, "It just happened so fast. And it is definitely something I could see happening here – students at Hamilton might hitchhike up the hill, and just like that…" He's right. It's the "that won't ever happen to me" mindset. Students at Hamilton are smart – they know drunk driving is bad, but there are those students who think, "just this one time…" As the exhibit's tagline makes clear, all it takes is "One Wrong Turn." Hopefully the personal aspects of the exhibit, combined with the close physical proximity of the accident, will leave enough of an effect on its viewers that there will not ever have to be another story like this one.

For anyone who has not visited "Friends," it is on display in the Fitness Center juice bar through the end of February. The duplicate exhibit (which is also sponsored by the Lewis Henry Morgan Institute at SUNYIT) is currently residing at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. For more information regarding the exhibit, the accident or the victims involved, visit www.friends.sunyit.edu.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Memories and mementos of the victims' lives.

A Closer Look: Could You Survive at Hamilton Without a Cell Phone?

by Lily Gillespie '12
Features Writer

I think it can be accurately stated that America has become a technology culture. There is, perhaps, no more obvious symbol of this than the cell phone. As of 2007, an estimated 82.4 percent of Americans owned a cell phone, making it a virtual anomaly not to have one. We live in a culture where it is no longer a question of if one has a cell phone, but what brand is it or what brilliant technological invention does it carry? I, myself, remember my first cell phone: a Nokia that was about as long as a pencil and which came with interchangeable faceplates. I have, as have many cell phone users, subsequently gone through several styles as tastes and fads have changed. What's startling is that kids who haven't even hit puberty are now cell phone users and parents rarely blink an eye at this. However, there remains a group of individuals, including several Hamilton students, for whom the cell phone is not a ubiquitous accessory and who have, shockingly, I know, found a way to live perfectly happy, normal, well-adjusted lives.

One such example is senior Peter Woodruff, who owns neither a cell phone, nor an MP3 player, nor a car, and does not have an AIM account. It is a hard thing for most of us to imagine, but as Woodruff explains, "I don't like the concept of being accessible all the time. It's nice to not be at everyone's beck and call…" Woodruff also questions the apparent need for everyone to be "connected" all the time, an understandable concern when you think about how many people you pass each day on the phone or listening to music as they go across campus. Although some may see this solely as an inconvenience, Woodruff adds that being without a cell phone actually has its benefits: "I never have to worry about those awkward cell phone moments in the movie theatre or during class."

WWW.CLIPART.COM

On the opposite end of the spectrum are those for whom a cell phone contains their entire life. Jerome Noel '09 is one of these avid fans, the sort who fall into the category of Blackberry, Blackjack, iPhone fanatics. Noel is the very proud owner of an iPhone, which he labels as, "The neatest damn thing," praising its aesthetic appeal, its multifunctionality, and its high overall cool factor. Noel admitted that the iPhone is not a necessity, but that it makes life a lot easier and, of course, a bit more fun.

A very popular show just recently addressed the supposed horror of being without a cell phone when the students were told they must relieve themselves of their link to the rest of the world before entering their Upper East Side school. In a telling moment of the kind of the technological environment in which we live, one girl moans, "Somebody pinch me! I'm in my own worst nightmare!" Fear not dear girl, for as several Hamilton students have proven, there is a world beyond your cell phone and the need to be constantly connected.

Logic Puzzle Answers

In our last puzzle, you were asked to identify the ends of 501 identical and unlabelled wires on each of two sides of a mountain, minimizing the number of trips required across the peak. You were permitted to connect or disconnect wires on one side or the other, as often as possible. You could use a single, portable voltage source to determine whether a wire were live or not. There was a bonus question, too: What if there were 502 wires?

The Puzzler could solve the problem in two trips:

1. Arbitrarily, we'll start on the south side. Choose one wire, and label it #1. Pair up all other wires, leaving wire #1 unconnected. Label each pair, but not with numbers. Pairs of letters, e.g. AA, AB, AC...BA, BB, BC.... will provide enough labels.

2. Travel to the north side.

3. Determine the lone, unconnected wire by attaching the voltage source to each wire in turn, until you find one that does not electrify any other wire. Label it #1.

4. Pick any other wire, label it #2.

5. Find the wire to which #2 is connected. Label it #3.

6. Repeat steps 4 and 5, increasing the label numbers by twos, until all wires are numbered.

7. Connect #1 to #2, #3, to #4, and so on, leaving #501 unconnected. Notice that all the wires are now connected, so that if you send electricity through #1, it will pass through all the wires.

8. Travel to the south side.

9. Disconnect all connections, but leave the letter labels in place.

10. Send electricity through wire #1. Wire #2 will now be live. Label it #2.

11. Find the wire which had previously been paired with Wire #2. Label it #3.

12. Repeat steps 10 and 11, increasing label numbers by twos, until all wires are numbered.

The Puzzler's solution only works for odd numbers of wires, since it requires us, at step 3, to determine the lone, unconnected wire. To use this method to label 502 wires, we would need an extra trip to determine a starting point.

Professor Peter Rabinowitz provides a better solution, which is available, as are the past puzzles, on our website: http://www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm

Look for our next puzzle in next week's Spectator.

Backstage with Ben Taylor

by Jennifer Vano '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Before his Jan. 30 performance at Hamilton College, I sat down with Ben Taylor--the son of musical legends James Taylor and Carly Simon and who sported blue Crocs, plaid shirt, ill-fitting jeans and oversized sunglasses--to discuss Kung Fu, the woes of being labelled "folk," and the benefits of having famous parents.

Venues: small and intimate or big and traditional?

I like shows that sound good no matter how many people there are. I like the good vibe.

What's your craziest fan encounter?

The idea that anyone would stop me on the street and recognize me and say, "hey, your music is great" is crazy enough. I have a couple crazy fans. I get lots of mail and some of it's a little bit disturbing, but most of it is not.

When did you get the musical itch?

I had sort of bummed around working for random jobs like river rafting companies. I got to be 21, and I got self-conscious about the fact that I didn't have a career. I realized a very clear career choice would be something that I had carefully and consistently poured a whole lot of effort and love into. I got to thinking about all the heroes in my life, and it's either been Kung Fu masters or musicians. It seems harder to be a Kung Fu master.

Kung Fu?

It was the only thing I ever wanted to do between 11 and 21. It's still all I ever want to do. I've stopped practicing it, and the act of it has become less martial and more medicinal. It has become so much a part of me. It's now more spiritual. My love and my music and Kung Fu are all intertwined.

Did your album, *The Legend of Kung Folk Part 1 (The Killing Bite)* stem from this philosophy?

It's an attempt to make a little joke of myself. I love music and Kung Fu, and so the music I make is deep in tradition and storytelling. I've tried to step over the label of folk musician, and I've looked for a way to define myself in societal terms, but I've given up. I wanted to come up with something personal and specific to what I am. The music I make is an extension of myself. My arms and legs and feet get all kinds of costumes I want to dress myself up in.

Where does this aversion to the folk label come from?

I saw "The Mighty Wind"; it didn't help with the archetype. It didn't seem that soulful to me. What I aspired to bring to my music were songs based in that traditional storyteller setting but that also embrace all the possibilities of contemporary music.

What's your musical process?

There are no rules. If something is good enough to finish, you finish. If I know what I want to write about, I write the idea out, and the rest I'll sort of outline. I'll change the prose that I wrote for the verses into the lyrics, and I will keep the chorus as simple as can be. In a lot of ways, you're sitting playing guitar and you pick a certain pattern, and you pick a melody, and you fall in love with it. It's much harder to fit words to that melody. Or maybe it's best we don't strain for anything: random chaos; that way we have our best shot at doing something un-tampered with.

Has your parents' fame affected your career in music?

Everything happens for a reason. There are pressures as well as advantages. It's best if they don't distract you. You have to do everything you can do to not take yourself too seriously. If part of it is getting over myself as a celebrity kid brat… then that's what I have to do. I had over 300 people at my first show. Spike Lee was there. I could complain forever that I wasn't ready for all the advantages, but that's so not the point. The point is to be glad for the failures to build character.

How much SEXIER can the SUPERBOWL get?

The Best (and Worst) Sexual Innuendos of Superbowl XLIII

by Josh Hicks '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"I'm 100% my own man" - Pepsuber

"3rd Down, 7 inches to go..." - Superbowl Announcer

The Boss Crotch Shot during the halftime show

"Mushy Mushy" - Alec Baldwin

"If you have hands that big, how can you jump that high?" - John Madden

Lustful horses... we know what you were thinking

"Unnecessary roughness in the 4th quarter" (to which one party-goer shouted: "Oh you's a bad boy!!!)

Intertwining vines during a Coke commercial ... (get your mind out of the gutter!)

"And it's up!... and it's down..." - Matt Eichenfield

"That time he got Larry Fitzgerald to penetrate right through that hole" - John Madden

"He was fully in, I felt it!" - Superbowl Fan

"I'm like sweatin' over here!" - Jix

"He's so big and strong... he can bring it back and reload it." - John Madden

"Mmm...look at those arms!" - Superbowl Fan

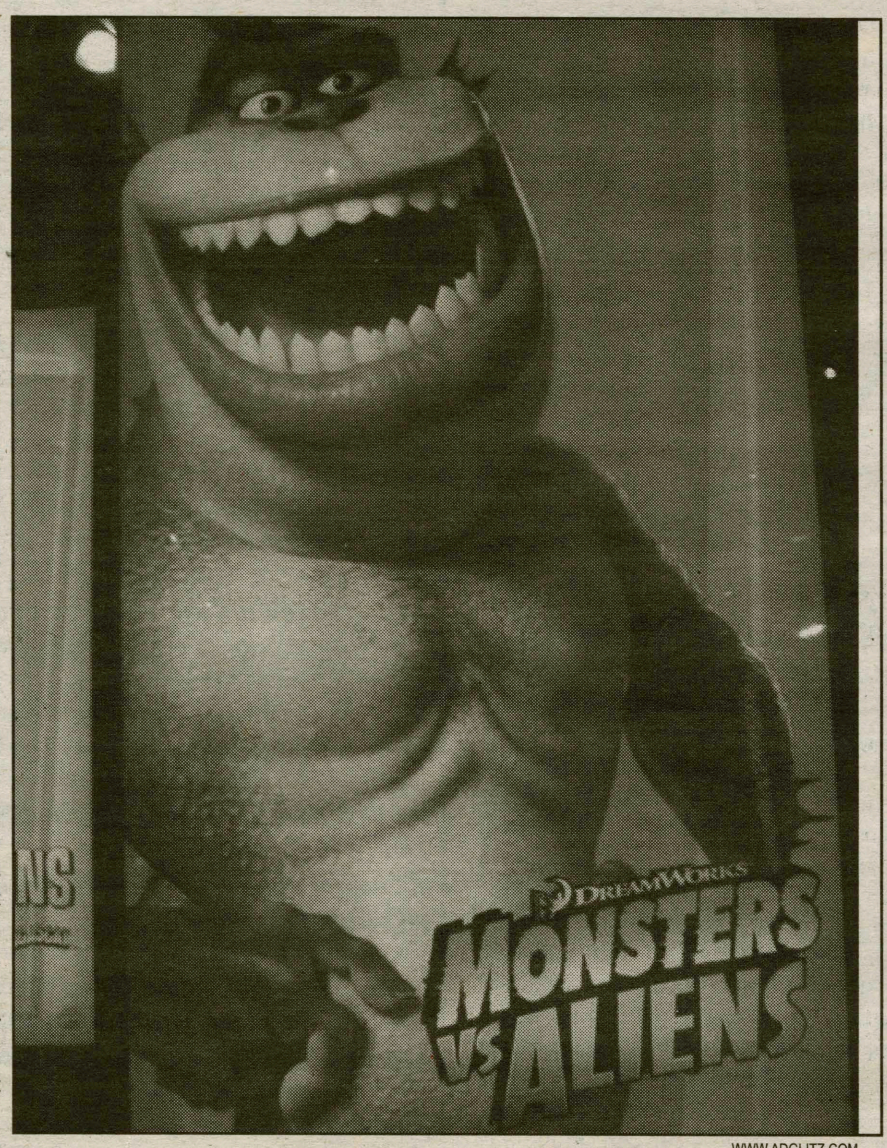
3-D Commercial Appeal Loses Superbowl Viewers

by Matt Nudell '11
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

This past Sunday, the Super Bowl game stole the spotlight on prime time television. The Pittsburgh Steelers became the first NFL franchise to win six Super Bowls after their thrilling victory over the Arizona Cardinals. Viewers asserted that the game rivaled last year's Super Bowl as one of the best Super Bowl games of all time. The event usually draws one of the biggest television audiences each year and is famous for its expensive, well-produced commercials. NBC, this year's Super Bowl host, tried to increase viewership during the game's commercial breaks by using a new twist: televising 3D ads.

Despite the recent worldwide economic slump, NBC reported on January 31, 2009 that it had earned a record $206 million of total ad revenue for the 69 advertising slots during the Super Bowl game. In addition, the network disclosed that it achieved a record $261 million in total ad revenue for the entire day of the Super Bowl.

Three scheduled 3D ads, the first ever in the Super Bowl's commercial history, aired right after the end of the second quarter.



WWW.ADGLITZ.COM

Monsters vs. Aliens was one of three disappointing 3-D ads that ran during the Superbowl.

DreamWorks Animation paid for a 90 second 3D trailer of its upcoming film *Monsters vs. Aliens*; the film will be released on March 27, 2009 and is the first computer-animated film to be made in real 3D. SoBe purchased a slot for a 3D advertisement of its energy drink *Life Water*. The ad, dubbed "Thrillicious," featured animated lizards dancing to Michael Jackson's Thriller and included an appearance of actress Naomi Campbell. Finally, NBC aired a joint 3D advertisement for its comedy show *Chuck* and hit science fiction drama *Heroes*.

Chuck was televised in 3D after the game. In order to allow audiences nationwide to view the commercials in their intended "eye-popping" form, Intel paid for the distribution of 125 million red and blue 3D glasses at local and national supermarkets and stores. The glasses utilized Intel's new InTru3D processing technology which was used to produce *Monsters vs. Aliens*.

Despite the promotional hype for the 3D ads, viewers gave very mixed reviews for the commercials. George Kentros '11, who wore Intel's 3D glasses, stated, "The 3D ads were definitely cool; the 3D glasses worked and weren't taxing on my eyes." However, Kentros added, "I was a little disappointed with the ads themselves. I guess I was expecting a little bit more." Moreover, a large number of viewers did not wear Intel's 3D glasses.

John Tower '09 and Kate Adams '12 added that the 3D commercials were not aesthetically pleasing and were disorientating and boring to watch without the 3D glasses. Tower and Adams stated that the distribution of the 3D glasses was poorly advertised; it seems that NBC focused on solely promoting the '3D aspect' of the commercials rather than also promoting the 3D glasses needed to view the special commercials. While some hailed the airing of *Chuck* in 3D as the beginning of a new era of television, *Chuck's* dismal viewer turnout hints that people may not be ready for virtual television. On the other hand, this month's premiere of *My Bloody Valentine 3D* is a possible sign that movies will be offered in both 2D and 3D formats in the near future. Time will tell whether the film and television industries will go "virtual."

Until then, the closest audiences will get to the action on their television and film screens are 3-D thrillers and slashers such as *Monsters vs. Aliens* and the re-make of *My Bloody Valentine*, which was released in theatres January 16, 2009.

UCB Turns Students into Sketches

by Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

The Upright Citizens Brigade Touring Company gave an uproariously funny comedy performance in the Annex last Saturday night. Four improv comedians from the company, Neil Casey, Mike Still, Craig Rowin and Silvija Ozols, brought to Hamilton by CAB, provided nearly 90 minutes of continous laughter to a crowded Annex audience with their nationally renowned improv sketch comedy.

The Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) began in New York City in 1996, when SNL's Amy Poehler and three comedian friends wanted a venue to perform sketch comedy for a reasonable admission price. Their troupe then began doing a unique style of longform improv and holding classes for aspiring improv performers Now they have two full sized centers in New York and Hollywood and lines out the door and around the block for many of their shows. *The Onion* has called them, "witty, irreverent, and conceptually ambitious."

The UCB touring group that performed at Hamilton definitely fit in all three of these categories. They constructed the show around interviews with two audience members. The lucky two were Andy Steele '10 and Cassie Sullivan '09. After conducting interviews with these students about where they were from, what they majored in and other seemingly simple questions, the company went to work, creating about eight sketches based on each student's life. Andy Steele's semester abroad in China became a source for gags about obnoxious Yale students, spitting locals and the secret government plan to appoint Hamilton students as all of America's ambassadors (don't ask). Cassie Sullivan's life became a source for comedy too; the UCB performers satirized her experiences with a long-distance boyfriend and as a classics major by acting out a Greek versus Latin gang war.

The ability of the performers to invent comedic situations on the spot, work together and communicate tacitly was quite impressive. All of the performers were constantly acting in the same scene, both physically and mentally, without any prior planning as to what the action of the scene would be. Their abilities to react to each others' actions and stay in tune impressed and enthralled the large audience. The performers did not fear the "conceptually ambiguous" as they sometimes took students' interviews to a new plane by inventing more bizarre skits like an 18th century dance party or the toga wars. The fact that the performers could draw their audience into even the more abstract scenes was proof of their abilities.

The UCB performers did a great job satirizing not only college life but also the other disparate elements of life that the student interviews introduced. The show was 100 percent relatable and audience appropriate, and in my own opinion, funnier than most of the other comedians I have seen perform at CAB events over the last four years. I would go see the UCB again because, as they reminded the audience before Saturday night's performance, in improv, the show is never the same twice.

WWW.UCBTHEATER.COM

***(from left)* Silvija Ozols, Neil Casey, Craig Rowin and Mike Still performed with UCB on January 31, 2009.**

COLD WEATHER HOROSCOPES

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

Aries: A good way to get warm in this, the coldest of months, is to cuddle up with a loved one and when the time is just right, tell them to build you a f**king fire.

Taurus: Sometimes getting warmer is as simple as asking your RA to turn up the thermostat. And while you're distracting them, have your roomate hit them in the back of the head with a shovel and then crawl inside their body for warmth.

Gemini: Sun lamps simulate the vitamins and nutrients you get from the sun during these dark months. They also ward off the vampires that have been scribbling graffiti all over the darkside.

Cancer: A good way to warm up outside is running... to Florida.

Leo: Scientists have discovered that, contrary to what you may think, drinking alcohol actually reduces your body temperature. But, contrary to what scientists think, you don't care.

Virgo: Remember that no matter how cold it gets, at least you aren't in Capoeira.

Libra: Use the inclement weather to get work finished early, because when spring comes, you will be too busy worshipping the sun and drinking keystone to get anything done.

Scorpio: Setting up bird feeders helps migrating birds stay healthy during these harsh times. They also nourish DU brothers on their way to their feeding grounds in Bundy.

Sagittarius: Certain fabrics are superior to others when it comes to keeping warm. Unfortunately, while wool and goose down are warm, lycra, sequins and feather boas are hot hot hot!

Capricorn: I apologize for the above horoscope.

Aquarius: Chemical hand warmers are a great way to keep your extremities from freezing. They also make an excellent impromptu suicide pill in case your team comes in last place at trivia night.

Pisces: Even though there are billions upon billions of snowflakes, each one, like every human soul, melts when you pee on it.

Weekly Charts

MUSIC
(From billboard.com)

Top Songs
1. Kelly Clarkson--My Life Would Suck Without You
2. Lady GaGa feat. Colby O'Donis--Just Dance
3. Beyonce--Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)
4. Kanye West--Heartless
5. Taylor Swift--Love Story

Top Albums
1. Taylor Swift--Fearless
2. Beyonce--I Am...Sasha Fierce
3. Nickelback--Dark Horse
4. Kanye West--808s & Heartbreak
5. Soundtrack--Twilight

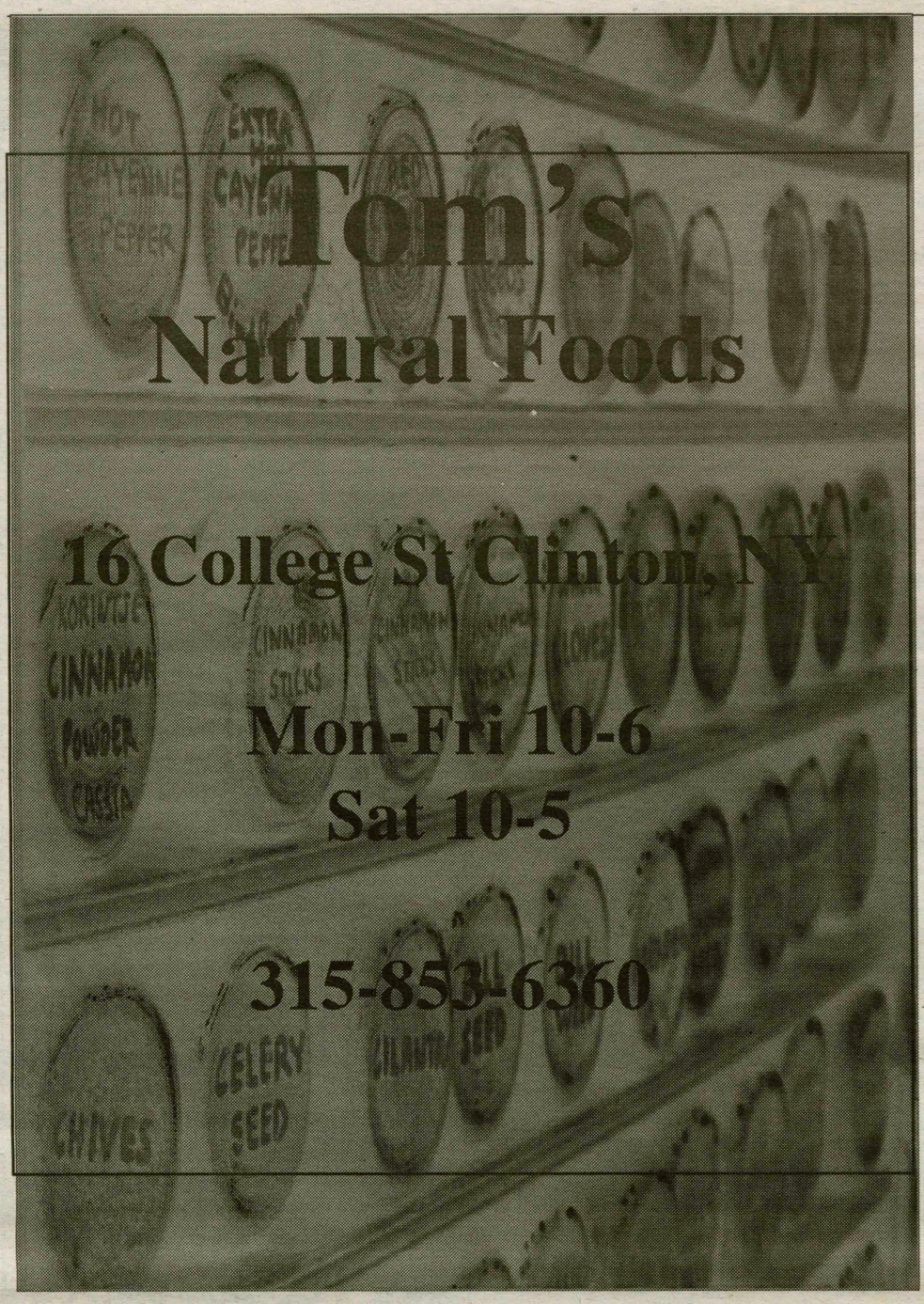
MOVIES
(imdb.com)
1. *Taken*
2. *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*
3. *The Uninvited*
4. *Hotel for Dogs*
5. *Gran Torino*

BOOKS
(From The New York Times Best Seller *List)*

Paperback Fiction
1. *The Shack*, by William P. Young
2. *Sundays at Tiffany's*, by James Patterson and Gabrielle Charbonnet
3. *The Reader*, by Bernhard Schlink
4. *Revolutionary Road*, by Richard Yates
5. *People of the Book*, by Geraldine Brooks

Paperback Non-Fiction
1. *Dreams from my Father,* by Barack Obama
2. *The Audacity of Hope,* by Barack Obama
3. *Team of Rivals,* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
4. *Three Cups of Tea,* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin
5. *Marley & Me*, by John Grogan

ADVERTISEMENTS



Programs offered year-round in world cultural centers

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

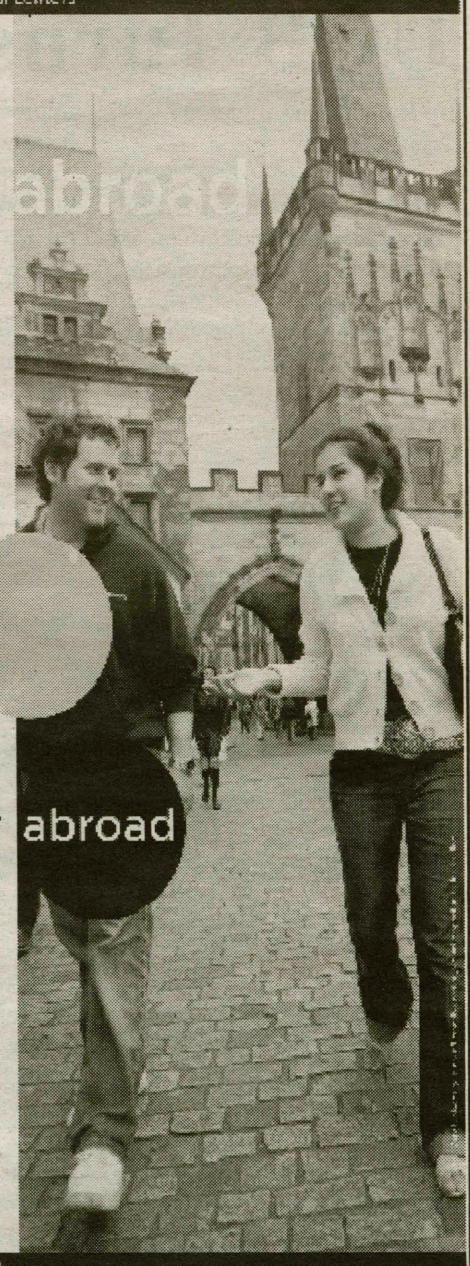
experience abroad

We're visiting your campus soon!

Talk to your adviser for more details.

find out more about NYU study abroad

NYU StudyAbroad. Be there.



www.nyu.edu/abroad/hamilton

Subaru Forester, 2009 MotorTrend SUV of The Year

2009 SUBARU FORESTER X

5 Speed, 4 AirBags, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, Traction Control, PW/PL, Air, Tilt, Cruise

Lease For $239 mo.

36 months. 10K mi/yr. $1,995 down cash or trade, plus tax, DMV fees and 1st payment. Security waived.

5YEAR/60,000 MI. WARRANTY

Stellar Performer

Visit us on the web at www.carbonecars.com

Don's SUPERSTORE

SUBARU

Rt. 12 North, Utica

797-1520

Movieplex 9

24 HOUR MOVIE INFO 363-6422

GLENWOOD SHOPPING PLAZA

WWW.FANDANGO.COM RT. 5 & 46 ONEIDA

SHOWTIMES BELOW ARE GOOD THRU THU 2/12

Coraline — IN DIGITAL 3D & DOLBY DIGITAL
●1:00●3:10-5:25-7:40▲9:55
STADIUM SEATING PG

THE PINK PANTHER 2 — STEVE MARTIN
STADIUM SEATING
●12:50■3:00-5:10-7:20▲9:30 DTS PG

JENNIFER ANISTON DREW BARRYMORE BEN AFFLECK SCARLETT JOHANSSON
he's just not that into you
●1:40-4:15-7:00▲9:40 DTS PG-13

PUSH ●2:00-4:25-6:50▲9:15 DTS PG-13

TAKEN #1 MOVIE! LIAM NEESON
●1:15●3:20-5:20-7:30▲9:35 PG-13

PAUL BLART: MALL COP
●12:35●2:50-5:00-7:10▲9:05 #1 COMEDY! PG

THE UNINVITED ●1:50●4:00-5:55-8:00▲10:00 PG-13

HOTEL FOR DOGS ●1:30●3:40-6:00 PG

NEW IN TOWN ●2:10-6:20 RENEE ZELLWEGER PG

GRAN TORINO 4:10-8:10 CLINT EASTWOOD R

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS 7:50▲9:50 R

OPEN-CAPTIONED FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED
THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX SAT-SUN NOON G

FREE POPCORN WEDNESDAYS!
FREE SMALL POPCORN WITH EVERY ADMISSION

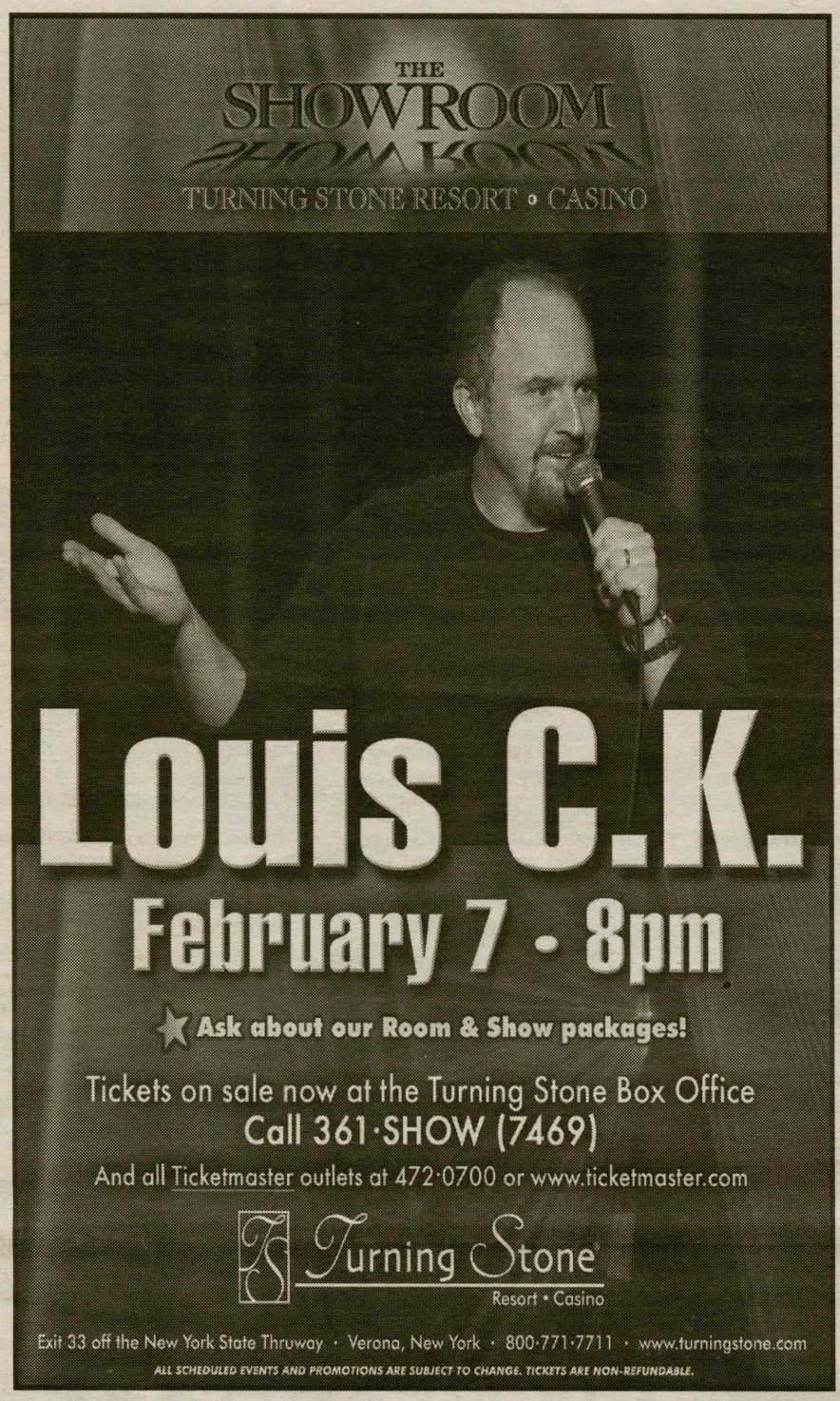
●MATINEES SAT-SUN ▲LATE SHOWS FRI-SAT
NON-3D EVENING ADMISSION W/COLLEGE ID $6.50
ADMISSION $5.50 ALL NON-3D SHOWS BEFORE 6:00

Blue Salon & Spa
An Aveda Lifestyle Salon

The Orchard Shopping Center
8623 Clinton Street
New Hartford, NY 13413
(315) 507-5700

Book your next appointment online
www.BlueSalonSpa.com

ADVERTISEMENTS


THE
SHOWROOM
TURNING STONE RESORT • CASINO
Louis C.K.
February 7 - 8pm
Ask about our Room & Show packages!
Tickets on sale now at the Turning Stone Box Office
Call 361·SHOW (7469)
And all Ticketmaster outlets at 472·0700 or www.ticketmaster.com
Turning Stone
Resort • Casino
Exit 33 off the New York State Thruway · Verona, New York · 800·771·7711 · www.turningstone.com
ALL SCHEDULED EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

Taking care of yourself is the best investment you'll ever make!

Step into Radiance and let Diana's personalized facials pamper & rejuvenate your skin. Relax & grant your skin the gift of health!

Diana offers specialty treatments: Premature Aging • Acne • Rosecea Dry/Dull Skin • Uneven Pigment

Serious Skincare Treatments in a Relaxing Setting

RADiANCE a skincare salon

315.368.7347
diana@radianceskincaresalon.com
Diane Stevenson, Skin Care Specialist

$20 off your first treatment or service with this ad
(Please call for appointment)
315.368.7347
RADiANCE a skincare salon
22 College St., (formerly Louel's)
Clinton, NY 13323

Programs offered year-round in world cultural centers

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

experience abroad

Monday morning.
- Have coffee.
- Fill out NYU study abroad application.
- Submit and go to class.

6 months from Monday.
- Wave goodbye to family.
- Board plane.
- Be there.

apply now and be there for fall 2009

NYU StudyAbroad. Be there.

www.nyu.edu/abroad/hamilton

Hamilton College
Blood Drive
Sponsored by Theta Delta Chi
and the Wellness Program

Friday, February 13th, 11:30am-5:30pm in the Fitness Center
To register for an appointment, go to Blood Drive
We need double-red donors @ 11:30, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, and 4:30!
For more information contact Dave Thompson at 859-4754

Please, sign up today!

Walk-ins are Welcomed!!!

Subaru Forester, 2009 MotorTrend SUV of The Year

2009 SUBARU FORESTER X

5 Speed, 4 AirBags, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, Traction Control; PW/PL, Air, Tilt, Cruise

Lease For $239 mo.

36 months; 10K mi/yr. $1,995 down cash or trade, plus tax, DMV fees and 1st payment. Security waived.

5YEAR/60,000 MI. WARRANTY

Visit us on the web at www.earlhomecars.com

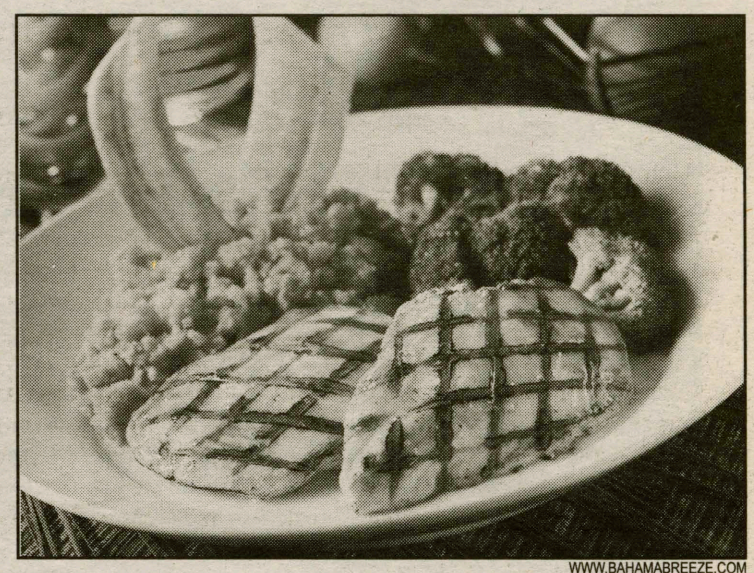
Don's SUPERSTORE

SUBARU
Rt. 12 North, Utica
797-1520

The Healthy Choice Might be Second Nature

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

EATFOO.COM



WWW.BAHAMABREEZE.COM

The preparation method of menu items gives rise to preconceived images in the minds of diners. Here, fried chicken is shown as opposed to grilled. A recent study found these images may be useful for choosing healthy options.

While eating out, it is inherently more difficult to control their diet. Menus don't provide lists of ingredients, additives or other information people know when they have prepared a meal in their own home. At Hamilton, students may not be able to see how the food is made, but they have the opportunity at Commons, McEwen, and even the Diner to an extent, to see the food before they ask for a helping; no such luck at restaurants.

What is the best method to follow then, for trying to keep to a diet or make healthy choices on such limited information? Can human beings infer more information subconsciously than can be logically assumed? Is the strategy that takes the most factors into consideration necessarily more accurate than a simpler strategy based on only one parameter?

Rocío García-Retamero, a Professor of Psychology from the University of Granada, and Jörg Rieskamp, a researcher from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development in Germany, have suggested two basic methods for determining a solution based on limited information: these stragies are "take-the-best" (TTB) and "weighted alternative" (WADD).

The first strategy (TTB) consists of selecting a route, the one the subject considers most significant for the objective at hand. When attempting to select a healthy meal from an uninformative menu, cooking method, main ingredient and side dishes were common parameters taken into consideration. That is to say, a meal with fried chicken is inferred to be less healthy than one with grilled chicken, and one served with French fries is inferred to have more fat than a meal served with rice.

The second strategy (WADD), is more complicated and involves balancing various routes or parameters that might affect the proper outcome. A diner might consider sides along with preparation, main ingredient as well as estimated nutritional content, the section of the menu the dish is located in and what the other people around the table are intending on ordering. Logic suggests this system would produce a more desirable outcome a higher percentage of the time. After all, the subject is considering more factors in the decision. However, Garcia-Retamero and Rieskamp found that the systems actually worked with about the same effacacy; diners who used only one parameter in choosing their meal using the TTB were able to pick out options that were just as healthy as those chosen by participants using WADD.

Students at Hamilton use various combinations of the two methods. Tom Morrell '10 said that his main consideration was "preparation methods" but that he also considered the "general charecteristic" of the food. Tom Nevers '10 explained his more elaborate approach, incorporating the sauces and side dishes in the meal. However, he said the best approach was "just being sensible." Morrell's approach is close to pure TTB, whereas Nevers demonstrates a classic version of WADD.

There are several practical reasons why the two approaches are actually quite comparable. The advantages of the WADD approach are countered by the fact that when using multiple parameters there is a greater chance of at least one of them being inaccurate. The section of the menu an item is on, for example, may have

*see **Eating**, page 18*

Are Shopaholics Really Ill?

by Yinghan Ding '12
Science & Technology Writer

WWW.MALLUSA.COM

Shopaholics find it almost impossible to stop shopping.

Facing the current economic recession, most people tighten up their belts, close their pockets and reduce spending as much as possible. However, for "shopaholics," people who greatly enjoy going shopping and buying things to the point that they cannot stop themselves from doing so, even the awful economic crisis cannot halt their desires. While some economists argue that consumption during recession is good for the economy at the macro level, the shopaholics' continuous luxury shopping habits prove to be harmful to their individual pocketbooks. Since shopaholics seem incapable of controlling their habit, some psychiatrists are arguing that "shopaholism" should be added to the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), which is currently being compiled.

Justifying whether over shopping should be considered a disease requires a clear definition of "disease." According to the DSM guidelines, a disease is an attitude or habit that several people have and that is thought to be unnatural or harmful. The controversial part of the debate is whether over shopping is "unnatural" or "harmful." To answer this question, psychiatrists are examining both the economic and psychological effects of the habit.

From an economic point of view, over-shopping is "unnatural" given the current economic circumstances. Lecturer of Economics, Margaret Morgan-Davie suggests that if our economy is experiencing prosperity, the aggregate demand curve tends to shift to the right (causing inflation), and we expect people to spend more. If our economy is experiencing recession (which is the case now), the aggregate demand curve tends to shift to the left (causing deflation), and we expect people to spend less. However, shopaholics do not cut back on luxury spending during a financial crisis, and some even increase their spending for reasons still unknown. Shopaholics' behaviors do not follow the predicted behaviors of normal people during recession periods. It is unnatural for a person to maintain the same shopping habits regardless of the financial circumstances. As a disease is considered an unnatural behavior, shopaholism could be considered a disease in this sense of the word.

From a psychological point of view, over-shopping is indeed

*see **Shopaholism**, page 18*

Recyclemania 2009 Update: Week One

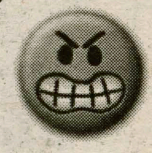
All New York Schools:

Institution Name:	*% Waste Reduction*
1. Onondaga Community:	**43.97%**
2. SUNY at Binghamton:	**41.79%**
3. SUNY Buffalo:	**37.02%**
4. Ithaca College:	**34.94%**
5. Vassar College:	**28.76%**
6. New York University:	**26.59%**
7. Bard College:	**25.58%**
8. Hobart William Smith:	**17.91%**
9. University of Rochester:	**16.18%**
10. Union College:	**5.66%**
11. Hamilton College:	***2.40%***

Nationally Overall:

Hamilton College:

#157 of 157



(all statistics from recyclemania.org)

Solutioneering: Does Online Journalism Pay?

With major print newspapers in dire straits, their online counterparts might be turning a profit

by David Riordan '09
Science & Technology Sr. Writer

In what looks to be the darkest hour for major newspapers, one of the most unlikely sources is doing the impossible: making money online. On December 18, 2008, ten days after its parent corporation, the Tribune Company, filed for bankruptcy, Russ Stanton, editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, announced that the paper's online revenues were exceeding its editorial payroll. That's good news for journalists everywhere as well as for the bankruptcy clerks in Wilmington, DE.

This changes everything.

Last October, the *Christian Science Monitor* (religiously affiliated in name only), a Monday-Friday daily national newspaper, unveiled its plans to stop the presses in April 2009, and become an online-only publication. For the sake of disclosure, I thought the CSM would fail to survive this transition. While online advertising can be lucrative, it still hasn't been substantive enough to sustain the costs of top-tier written journalism we've come to expect from national news dailies like the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*.

With the rise of ubiquitous broadband, the cost of transmitting video has reached the same cost as transmitting text: zero. For the majority of the 20th century, the dominant media paradigm cemented around expensive broadcasts: the initial cost to set up a news press or broadcast tower was cost-prohibitive. As a result, the few outlets could command huge advertising fees by delivering targeted messages on a massive scale. In most cases, free mass delivery paid for by advertisers drove revenue significantly further than paid subscribers ever could. As *Wired* editor Chris Anderson notes, subscriptions only made readers more valuable to advertisers, demonstrating that readers (and viewers) were willing to make a fiscal investment in the content, and thus would be more engaged with the advertising. News organizations scaled with these revenue increases, and the quality of journalism improved as a result.

So as the cost of starting a new "media outlet" on the internet plummets, new entrants' operational costs are significantly less than that of entrenched publications and broadcasters and can undercut them in advertising price. Advertisers, gravitating to the more effective targeting online, eventually began to cut their traditional ad budgets. The idea was that while traditional publications moved their content online, losing the subscription subsidy for online and diminishing the value of their print ads, their online ads would make up the difference. They didn't.

WWW.CRA.ORG
The *Chicago Tribune* filed for bankruptcy last year.

The print news business was supposed to be dead. Online journalism's poster child, the *Huffington Post*, is more analysis than fact finding, and is valued at $100 million. The "most influential" online-only organization, made up of a few reporters, comprised mostly of commentary and aggregation, is almost laughable compared to the *New York Times*. To put things in perspective, in 2002 the New York Times Company was valued at nearly $6 billion. Today it's valued at $688.76 million, or a little over seven times the value of the *Huffington Post*.

So the *LA Times* digital revenue is mostly from web ads. Granted, the majority of its revenue is still from the print edition, but that it can cover a significant part of its costs from its digital operations is a promising sign for journalism's future.

More interesting things are happening in the development of new models for journalistic profits. Companies that can leverage journalistic byproducts (documents, news releases, in addition to archives) can become for-profit databases. This has taken off for specialty products from speciality organizations, particularly with Washington congressional coverage from organizations like CQ and Roll Call. Politico plans to syndicate coverage of DC to local newspapers in exchange for acting as the ad broker, controlling the ads that local papers run on their political pages, leveraging the slim costs of becoming a specialty wire, functioning already as a specialty paper. These new models are emerging at a time of crisis, not from major publications, but from specialty outlets that have the flexibility to adapt to changing market conditions and the stability to experiment.

There's light at the end of this journalistic tunnel, and there is a future for big newspapers. We just don't know what they'll look like yet.

Bam! The Physics of a Brutal Tackle

*from **What a**, page 18*

will also target a smaller location on the targeted opponent's body to apply their impact on in order to increase relative momentum, that is, to make the ratio of the relative mass of their own body to the targeted portion of the opponent's body as favorable as possible.

Ryan demonstrated all of these features as he tightened his upper body into a tight bullet and went for McGahee's head and shoulders. According to Stefan Duma, professor of mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech, the Clark-McGahee collision was almost 200g's. This compared to the measured impacts of car crashes, which are on average about 120g's, is quite astonishing. "Almost the most severe hit you can reasonably withstand and live," Professor Duma stated.

But the mechanics of tackling are not the only place where physics and football meet. A team of forward-thinking individuals at Carnegie-Mellon University headed by football fanatic and associate professor of computer engineering Priya Narasimhan are designing a new kind of football that would have GPS tracking built within it.

"My personal goal is in four or five years to see this being used in a Super Bowl game - and I'm on the sideline watching," said Narasimhan. "It's a perfect marriage of two things I'm passionate about."

This "smarter" football installed with GPS technology would be able to give onlookers a perspective on the game through the ball's point of view. Additionally, it would provide viewers the ability to see real-time tracking and virtual three-dimensional flight. Furthermore, this new ball would improve ground-based positioning network to provide accuracy to within in an inch (though it could be even more accurate if the military did not classify more advanced GPS technology).

Thus far, there are two challenges that Narasimhan and her team face. First, they are trying to figure out a way to make the ball light enough. Second, and perhaps most important, they are trying to determine a way to have a consistent power source for the electronic GPS system that would also be able to resist the hard impact a football in the NFL would face.

"You don't really want the football to have to be plugged into a wall outlet every other play," said Narasimhan.

So it appears the physicists and engineers are not solely interested in big geeky toys like hadron colliders and particle accelerators. They are more often than not also interested in watching the football game just as much as anyone else, even though they may do it with a pen and calculator in hand rather than a cold Saranac and a hoagie.

Did You Know That?

Wacky Facts: Why Recycle?

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

• More than 20 million Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using 133 square miles of aluminum foil. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.

• A typical family consumes 182 gallons of soda, 29 gallons of juice, 104 gallons of milk and 26 gallons of bottled water a year.

• On average, it costs $30 per ton to recycle trash, $50 to send it to the landfill, and $65 to $75 to incinerate it.

• If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you'd get about 700 of them. A supermarket could use all of them in under an hour.

• About one-third of an average dump is filled up with packaging material.

• A recent government survey showed that at least 36 states are anticipating local, regional, or statewide water shortages by 2013.

• About 75 percent of the water we use in our homes is used in the bathroom.

• The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle can run a 100-watt light bulb for four hours. It also causes 20 percent less air pollution and 50 percent less water pollution than when a new bottle is made from raw materials.

• Americans throw away 25 billion Styrofoam coffee cups every year.

• The average household throws away 13,000 separate pieces of paper each year. Most is packaging and junk mail.

• Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.

• To produce each week's Sunday newspapers in the U.S., 500,000 trees must be cut down.

• A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can in as little as 60 days.

• World electricity demand is expected to double between 2000 and 2030. The greatest increase will occur in the developing world, and the most rapid growth will occur in people's homes.

• In 2006, the national recycling rate of 32.5 percent (82 million tons recycled) prevented the release of approximately 49.7 million metric tons of carbon into the air - roughly the amount emitted annually by 39 million cars, or saving energy equivalent to ten billion gallons of gasoline.

• The amount of wood and paper Americans throw away each year is enough to heat 50 million homes for 20 years.

• Americans use over 80 billion aluminum soda cans every year, more than twice as many as any other country.

• More than 36 percent of the fiber used to make new paper products in the United States comes from recycled sources.

• If all U.S. households installed water-efficient appliances, the country would save more than three trillion gallons of water and more than $18 billion dollars per year.

• Almost half of the average home's energy consumption is used for heating.

What a Hit! The Physics of the Football Tackle

by Saad Chaudhry '12
Science & Technology Editor

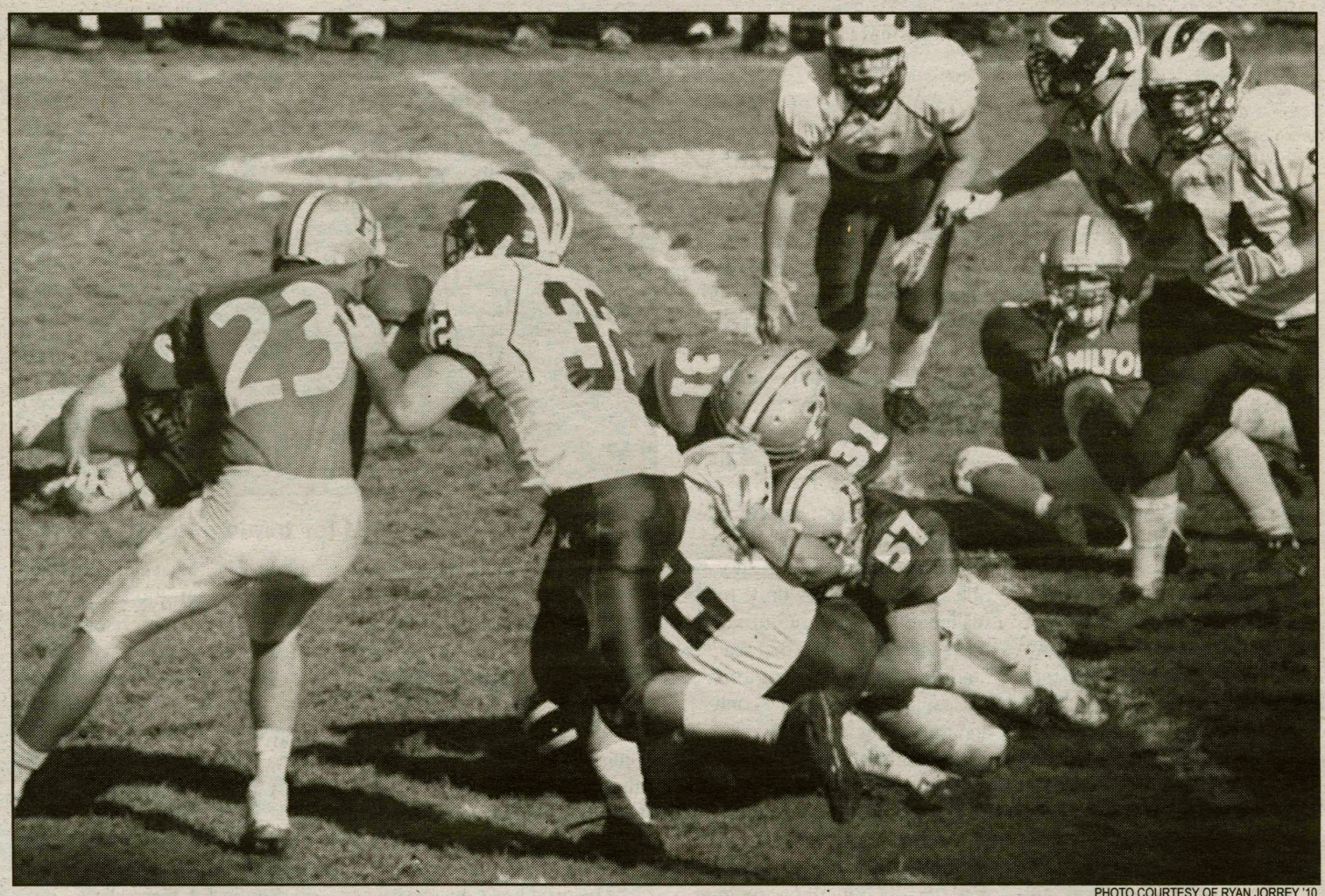


PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN JORREY '10

The Hamilton Continentals may not realize it, but they are applying the laws of physics every time they tackle.

The Super Bowl on Feb. 1 ended with the Pittsburgh Steelers victorious over the Arizona Cardinals 27 to 23. Coming in to the game, the Steelers were known for leading the league with their fierce defense. The Steelers' defensive superiority certainly played an immense role in their successful season, not only through a strategic point of view, but also through a scientific perspective, that is, through the lens of physics.

Isaac Newton's gravitational laws of the physical world can very amusingly be applied to one of the most physical games (no pun intended) in the nation: football. Of course, when one muses why football is considered a physical sport in the first place, a common reason is due to the sport's exciting tackling which often leaves players injured despite the heavy protective gear with which they are mandated to arm themselves.

Now after saying that, let us recall simple seventh grade physics: force equals mass times acceleration, momentum equals mass times velocity, and the Steelers' Ryan Clark tackling and knocking Baltimore Raven's Willis McGahee unconscious equals momentum conserved.

Following the game that annihilated the Ravens' chances at the Super Bowl, Clark was asked to comment on his hard hit against McGahee. He replied, "How I look at it, you can be the hammer or the nail. I try to be the hammer."

Thus, though it is true that size-more validly mass-does matter in the amount of punch a tackle will have, according to physics the speed at which a player moves matters equally. Furthermore, if one reviews the tape of the Steelers-Ravens game three Sundays ago, as many scientists did, one will notice that Clark's velocity was almost fifty percent greater than McGahee's velocity. So Clark truly did behave as a hammer, nailing McGahee down to the floor.

Nonetheless, both size and mass do matter when it comes to making the big tackle in football. Often size and mass are used interchangeably by the average layperson, but there can be a higher concentration of mass in a smaller area of space. Football players will often tighten their muscles, pelvis, and abdomen as close together as possible, creating a more concentrated amount of mass which results in a greater force of collision upon impact. Additionally, football players

see ***Bam!****, page 17*

Shopaholism: A Disease of Wealth?

from ***Shopaholics****, page 16*

"harmful." It is considered by many psychiatrists to be an obsessive-compulsive neurosis. It can be as dangerous and harmful as a drug or alcohol addiction. The debt and nervous breakdowns that result from over-shopping have been known to cause suicides. Shopaholics have gone mad about shopping that stopping them (or even attempting to stop them) from shopping is equivalent to "killing" them. Not only do they harm themselves mentally, but the excessive goods they buy are considered great wastes to the economy. Therefore, it could be considered a disease given its "harmful" nature both mentally to individuals and to the economy.

A well-known shopaholic is Antonia Novello who, ironically, was the former New York State Commissioner of Health. She had such an insatiable desire to shop that she had employees from her office squire her on buying expeditions to Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue and three different Albany-area malls. One of Novello's subordinates said that her "fondness for shopping was so well known that employees in the office would give her sales fliers or coupons to encourage her to leave the office so that they would not have to work late."

So what actually causes the shopaholic behavior? Some people believe that there is a cross-cultural effect that produces shopaholics, and they point out "there are no shopaholics in poor countries." Others conclude that the compulsive shoppers tend to be women who have had relatives also predisposed to buying binges, and who live in areas overflowing with goods and have the disposable income to buy them. The real cause of shopaholic behavior remains ambiguous, as it varies among different people and different countries.

At the moment, the good news is that many psychiatric professionals believe that shopaholism is a disease that can be treated psychologically, though medical trials to treat the condition have been stymied by a lack of government funding. Hopefully for the sake of those suffering from the disorder, shopaholism will be included in the DSM V, and the government and other organizations will treat it as a serious disorder which merits research.

Eating Out in Healthy Style Using the Simplest System

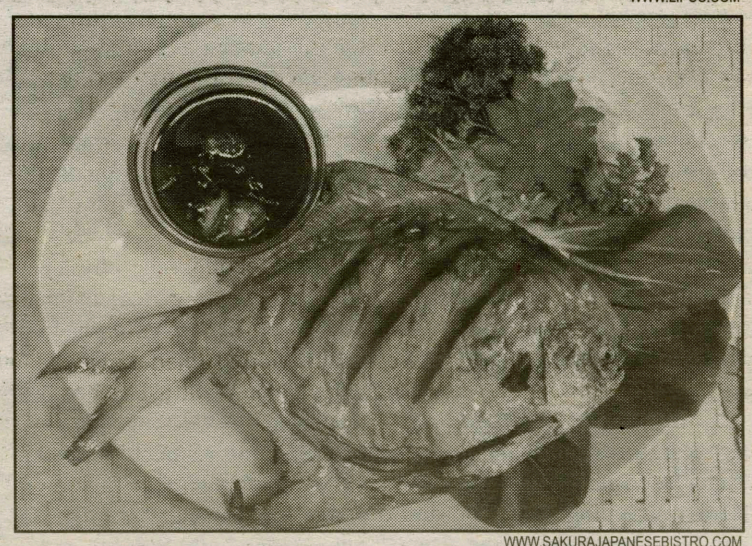
from ***The Healthy,*** *page 16*

nothing to do with its nutritional content. Also, sometimes multiple parameters often overlap (grilled chicken is more likely to be served with rice than fried chicken) so if one parameter is used, the others also hold true whether considered by the subject or not.

There is another reason, however, that is not so readily apparent. Garcia-Retamero and Rieskamp found that certain words are connected with certain images in the human mind (not a novel concept by itself), and that these images are surprisingly accurate in determining whether a menu item would be healthy or unhealthy. For example, "grilled" called up healthier images than "fried" and "fish" healthier images than "beef."

The experiment was performed by giving participants varying amounts of information about a dish, ranging from none (numbering unnamed items) to complete (full nutritional information and display of the dishes), asking participants to select the healthiest option and surveying the participants afterwards to determine their cognitive processes.

WWW.LIPCC.COM



WWW.SAKURAJAPANESEBISTRO.COM

Beef gives a high-fat image, while fish is a "low-fat word."

SPORTS

Hamiltonians Among Many Who Enjoy Super Bowl

by Daniel Hagemeier '12
SPORTS EDITOR

Super Bowl XLIII started at 6.32 pm on Sunday night. The game featured the Pittsburgh Steelers who attempted to win their sixth Lombardi Trophy and the Arizona Cardinals who appeared in their first Super Bowl. The game reached the highest TV rating of all times. This also included the majority of the Hamilton Campus.

All over the campus, various Super Bowl parties were hosted that drew students together to watch the game. Bon Appetit hosted a Super Bowl party in Commons, including special Super Bowl cuisine and a lottery for gift cards and an LCD Plasma TV. The Christian Fellowship invited everybody to watch the game on a big screen in the Chapel Loft while enjoying traditional American fast food. The game was also shown in the Science Center. Additionally, countless private parties were hosted, for example in Bundy, Milbank or McIntosh. Whoever had too much work to attend one of the parties simply watched the game in his room. They saw one of the best Super Bowls in recent history.

Only a few minutes into the game, Steelers fans could sigh in relief when Ben Roethlisberger seemingly ran the ball into the end zone on a quarterback scramble only to be disappointed minutes later, after Arizona challenged the play and it was reversed, leaving Pittsburgh only with a field goal. The cries of disbelief were audible in most rooms on campus. Later in the game, however, Pittsburgh profited from a Gary Russell Touchdown run in the second quarter which put them ahead 10-0. The game seemed to become monotonous and one-sided and most students started focusing on their work. However, after a 45-yard completion to Anquan Boldin and the following touchdown by tight end Ben Patrick, Arizona was back in the game and dominated the Steelers. With seconds to go in the second half, the Cardinals found themselves deep in the red zone in perfect scoring position.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARE BROWNE '11

Hamiltonians cheer during their Super Bowl Party in McIntosh

But what happened next marked not only a new record in Super Bowl history, but also the most memorable moment of Super Bowl XLIII and the favorite play of most Hamilton students. When linebacker James Harrison, the Defensive Player of the Year, intercepted Kurt Warner's pass at the one-yard line and took it back all the way for a 100-yard interception return, football history was made. "Our room erupted in excitement", says Clare Browne '11, who saw the game with fellow dorm mates in the McIntosh common room.

After all the tension of the second quarter, halftime helped everybody to calm down a little bit and grab something more to eat while everybody still kept talking about the last play of the half. Bruce Springsteen performed during half time, an event much anticipated by some in the Hamilton community. "I only want to see Bruce Springsteen perform. That's why I watched the game" stated Maeve Gately '12.

Back into the game, Pittsburgh scored a field goal to gain a 20-7 lead after Arizona managed two goal line stands. The game seemed to be on the edge of being decided when Kurt Warner connected with Larry Fitzgerald for a touchdown with just about seven minutes to go. Hope started to rise in the Arizona Cardinals fans on campus and their prayers were answered a little bit later after another Larry Fitzgerald touchdown with two and a half minutes to go in the fourth quarter. Arizona also recorded a safety after a penalty against Pittsburgh in their own end zone, making it a 23-20 game with Pittsburgh in need to score at least a field goal to tie the game which would have resulted in the first Super Bowl in overtime.

"That play was crucial", said Abdelwahab Mohamed '10 right afterwards, and he would have been right if it were not for Santonio Holmes. The third-year receiver caught the decisive touchdown pass from Ben Roethlisberger despite deep coverage to decide the game. Arizona started a last attempt but on their last play Warner fumbled the ball to give the game away.

"It was like last year with the Patriots. Manning was almost sacked and then completed a pass and later got the touchdown", said Geoffrey Hicks '09. In fact, it was very similar, as Roethlisberger was almost sacked during the last drive, which probably would have resulted in the first Super Bowl win for the Arizona Cardinals. But that is what makes games special and why we all love to watch the Super Bowl. And as Steelers fan Kendall Weir '12 stated after the game was over, "You gotta take the win, you gotta take the win!" Yes, indeed.

The Flawed Systems of the Hockey All-Star Games

by Ayush Soni '11
SPORTS WRITER

Now that the NHL All-Star game is past and the NBA All-Star game and NFL Pro Bowl are soon to arrive, all-star games and all their critiques have once again arrived. In theory, there are many positives to an all-star game; simply put, only the best and most skilled are featured on one field. The best passers, shooters, dribblers, catchers and hitters can be seen in one game instead of having to see individual starts in individual games or waiting for the Olympics, which in itself cannot bring the quality of an all-star game.

Unfortunately, this theory never came into practice and what we have now are boring, intensity-free games featuring no real defense or many of the other factors that make them the games we love. Besides baseball, none of them even acount for anything, causing many players to make excuses just to avoid the games. No player wants to play an extra game in what are already long and grueling seasons.

The new policies leagues are implementing do nothing to help. For example, Gary Bettman, the NHL commissioner, has forced players who skip the all-star games to miss either one game before or after the break. This rule has taken form in reigning Norris Trophy Winner Nik Lidstrom and reigning Selke Winner Pavel Datsyuk to be suspended for the Jan. 27 game against the Columbus Blue Jackets, a game with real implications. When the all-star game starts affecting real games' rosters, there are problems that need to be changed. Simply put, there are two options: either make the game more intense by making it mean something, or get rid of it altogether and simply keep the more exciting and soon to be more popular skills competition.

In 2003, the MLB made a questionable, but needed, move when it made the all-star game decide home field advantage in the championship series. It is time for the NFL, NBA and NHL to apply similar drastic measures. While home field advantage in the playoffs may not be the best option, there are other incentives. Increasing the monetary rewards is one form of action that could change the intensity level. The truth of the matter is that these players play for money, and the more they are paid, the better they will play. Another option is to stop all-star voting. In too many instances, undeserving and poorer players have made it into the game because of voting for all-star starters. While this may not change the intensity of the game, it will prevent lower quality players from making the game.

Dropping the rule that every team must have a representative might help too. In smaller rosters like the NHL, the talent is very diluted. If a team has no all-star quality player on its team, it should not have an all-star in the game. A third option is to make the game benefit charity in some way. Every player on each team can vote for a charity to represent and, as a team, each will represent a charity. For example, if most players in the AFC want to play for the Red Cross and most players in the NFC want to play for the Salvation Army, it will basically be a game between the two charities. The charity represented by the winning team will receive a large amount of money. This may increase intensity and relevance because it is actually for a cause and a way in which athletes can give back by doing what they love. While these options may work a little bit, the all-star games will probably never be what the fans want, and because of that, they should be cancelled.

Instead of completely taking out all-star weekend, however, the leagues should still keep the skills competition. These competitions are exciting, memorable, and fan-pleasing. Everyone remembers the best dunk contests and the best home-run derbies, and even if people do not quite know much about the NHL all-star and Pro Bowl contests, they are still exciting and interesting to even the most casual sports fans. Watching races for the fastest players, shooting for the hardest shot competition and other features in these competitions is fun, which is much more than one can see for the all-star games.

As the NHL all-star game passes and two more are soon to arrive, I know that I will probably not even watch because the games have become just as much a waste of time for me as they are for the players.

Fast Times with the Track Team

*from **Indoor Track**, page 20*

Rebecca "too good" Yaguda '09 vaulted 9'6" on Saturday, good enough for a seventh place finish. Her jump ranks her fourth in the state, making her a contender for all-state honors. Her ever-improving technique makes her a dark horse on the female side.

It's official: Greg Fullman '09 is back. The senior middle distance runner/hurdler looks fully recovered from injuries that prevented his XC career from taking off. No worries though. With form that even Kosgei sometimes pauses to admire and Gaylord simply calls "pure," Fullman picked up much needed points for Hamilton and ran to a sixth place finish in the 500m (69.52 seconds).

After a stray runner in her lane cost her precious time last week, Liz Wahl '10 had a nice day at Colgate. Wahl used her trademark high-armed smooth stride for a 27.31 second 200m, placing her ninth out of over 50 runners.

Golden Spike Women's Winner - Akilah Bond '09: Bond jumped her way back into nationals with a qualifying mark of. Her golden spike eligibility could be revoked if she continues this success.

Golden Spike Men's Winner- Josh Orndorff '10: The sophomore fullback/thrower doubled in the shot and weight and threw to sixth and eleventh place finishes. "Josh is learning to peak which will make him a power-tender in the championship meets to come," Tim Olsen '11 said.

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY Volume XLIX Number 15

SPECTATOR SPORTS

February 5, 2009

Basketball Team Continues Liberty League Success

by Daniel Hagemeier '12 and Brooke Rayder '11
Sports Staff

This weekend the women's basketball team went on the road to beat Clarkson 76-55 in a heavily offensive game.

Four Hamilton players scored in double figures while Alex Sowinski '10 and Molly Kane '09 contributed to a 69 percent 3-point shooting night for the Continentals. Kane's 3-pointers at the beginning of the second half helped ignite Hamilton after a slow first half in which Clarkson temporarily claimed a five point lead.

This game marked the tenth game the women's basketball team played in 2009. Coach Mackin's team started the year with a 44-49 loss at Bowdoin on Jan. 3 in spite of Sydney Fasulo's '09 second straight double-double. The Continentals committed 25 turnovers during the course of the game. Three days later, the Continentals pulled off an impressive 70-40 win against St. Joseph College. Kari Skitka '12 posted 10 points and 11 rebounds, her first double-double for Hamilton College.

WWW.HAMILTON.EDU
Sydney Fasulo '09

The women's basketball team continued their up-and-down start with recording wins and losses in constant interchange. The team lost at William Smith College 42-50 on Jan. 10 but won their following game at home 57-39 against visiting Vassar. Directly afterwards, the Continentals lost to Rensselaer at home 46-53, won at Middlebury 65-54, lost to Union College 47-60 and won again against Skidmore 52-49. Accordingly, the women's basketball team lost their game against St. Lawrence 49-52 before winning to Clarkson. The team hopes to end their streak of losing every second game this Friday at the Rennselaer Polytech Institute.

Thereby, Hamilton hopes to regain their generally high shooting percentage . Maintaining a high free throw percentage in the game will also be important, as RPI finished the Jan. 17 game with an 84 percent completion, while the Continentals shot 58.3 percent.

Despite their shooting difficulties in the last game, Hamilton's inside game is coming along well. Sydney Fasulo '09 is a regular scoring contributor as well as rebounder, along with Madelyn McGuinnis '09. The seniors have also been getting help from Lisa Olszewski '11 and Kari Skitka '12. All four women stand at least 6'0."

Hamilton's inside-outside attack could prove to be at its peak for two crucial away games this weekend. Hamilton is now 3-4 in the Liberty League and looks to imrove to 5-4 with back-to-back away games at RPI and Vassar.

Indoor Track & Field Team Starts Off Strong in 2009

by James Russell '09 and Scott Bickard '11
Sports Writers

If you've ever seen the Hamilton Indoor track, you know it is an unfit hostess for college track meets. Unlike her good-looking younger brother (the Hamilton Outdoor track), the indoor facility is "so impure, just real impure" as Cam Gaylord '09 likes to put it, so the team must travel each weekend during the indoor season.

After some earlier, longer winter season trips to St. Lawrence and RIT, the Hamilton squad ran locally in the indoor arena at Colgate. In their most competitive meet yet, the team looked strong. Coming off a sub-par week at St. Lawrence, the meet at Colgate earned pars and some birdies in serving as a key step in getting the team back on the "Applewagon". Amidst a loaded field, junior William Reid's big frame kicked off the meet and his 3k career with a 9:10, just 10 seconds over the ECAC qualifying time. Reid finished ahead of two Cortland runners in the event. Gen Flanders '09 and Abby Jones '09 teamed up in the women's 3k for impressive 27th and 36th place finishes respectively. Flanders appears to have lost none of the edge she acquired from a banner XC season. Like the freshmen college student, senior Sarah Caney decided to step out of her comfort zone and try her legs in the mile. Caney's 5:39 and 16th place finish (out of 35) could mean big things for her when she returns to her trademark events in the 400m and 800m.

The combination of Keith Gross '09 in the mile, Cuffie "Louis" Winkler '10 in the 800, James Grebey '12 in the 400 and Peter Woodruff '09 in the 1200 produced a very solid Distance Medley Relay. Gross's 4:39 mile leg and Winkler's 2:03 800m split were especially encouraging for the group running without their iron man, Peter Kosgei '10.

In more Kosgei news, the multi-event national champ will return for his season debut at Syracuse this weekend. The races he will run are uncertain, but he remains the "Reid" heavy favorite to pick up a title in any event from the 800m and up. Adding even more intrigue to his season, Kosgei has an outside shot at breaking the four-minute mile, having run a 4:03 split in the DMR last year.

Hamilton's other male superstar did compete on Saturday. Tidelco Ductan '09 came away with his usual victory in the triple jump by winning a closely contested duel against an Alfred State jumper with a leap of 13.79m. Ductan is also a national contender.

Grebey's Golden Spike

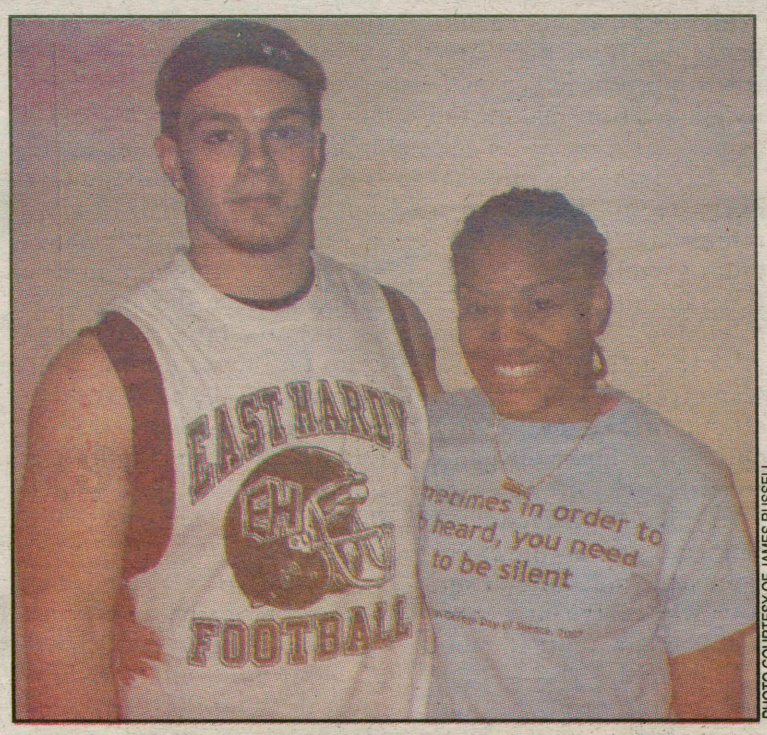


PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES RUSSELL
Thrower Josh Orndorff '11 and jumper Akilah Bond '09 have stood out on the Indoor Track & Field team.

*see **Indoor Track**, page 19*

Athlete of the Week: Stephanie Miguel

by Abby Perer '09
Sports Writer

Hamilton College women's ice hockey forward Stephanie Miguel '11 is no stranger to scoring goals. Even at a young age, Miguel had a knack for finding the back of the net. Once when she was five years old in a co-ed game, she scooped up the puck, shot it into the net, and began celebrating. There was only one problem – the young Miguel had accidentally scored on her own team. Citing this incident as her most embarrassing moment on the ice, Miguel has plenty to brag about since then. In high school, she scored the winning goal in overtime in the league championship, helping her team remain undefeated.

Miguel's success has continued into her college career. These days, the sophomore leads the NESCAC in points with 17 goals and 14 assists, picking up nine of her 31 points this season in the team's last four games alone. In the Continentals' game against the Wesleyan University Cardinals, Miguel had three goals and two assists on the way to Hamilton's 5-2 victory. In the next game against SUNY Potsdam on Jan. 27, Miguel contributed one goal and one assist to lead Hamilton to yet another win. When asked why she came to Hamilton, Miguel points to the school's high academic standards, small-town charm, and strong hockey program. Much to the delight of the already-strong Hamilton hockey program, Miguel continues to make it even stronger.

Beyond hockey and school, Miguel is plenty busy; she is a member of the Judicial Board, works for the athletic equipment manager, and participates in Model EU.

WWW.HAMILTON.EDU
Stephanie Miguel '11

A native of Maple, Ontario, Miguel names Canadian Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins and Hayley Wickenheiser of Team Canada as her favorite professional athletes. She admires Crosby for his "work ethic, creativity with the puck, and overall hunger to be the best he can be," and she admires Wickenheiser because the female pro is "the best female hockey player in the world and has worked tirelessly to put women's hockey on the map."

Just as Wickenheiser has put women's hockey on the map, Miguel has worked hard to put Hamilton hockey on the NESCAC map this season, and that's why she's the Athlete of the Week. Be sure to catch Miguel and the rest of the team take on Bowdoin this Friday, Feb. 6, at 4:00pm at the Sage Rink.